HOUSE MEMORIAL 100

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING JAMES "JIM" JACKSON FOR HIS TIRELESS WORK OVER THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS IN PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND FOR HAVING ESTABLISHED AND GROWN DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, James "Jim" Jackson was hired in October 1979 to establish and manage the nonprofit organization that is known today as disability rights New Mexico, and has served as executive director and now chief executive officer from that time through the present day; and

WHEREAS, disability rights New Mexico is the state's designated protection and advocacy system, charged by federal law with promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, serving persons with a broad range of disabilities and assisting individuals in accessing needed

.210333.2

1   services and overcoming discrimination; and

2   WHEREAS, Jim Jackson has been a member of numerous state

3   advisory groups and task forces and currently serves as a

4   member of the developmental disabilities planning council and

5   the medicaid advisory committee and as the chair of the

6   steering committee for the disability coalition; and

7   WHEREAS, through its advocacy efforts, disability rights

8   New Mexico has had an impact on transforming the state's system

9   for providing services to persons with developmental

10   disabilities from an institutional model to a person-centered,

11   community-based service model; establishing a national

12   precedent for the authority of protection and advocacy agencies

13   to visit with residents of facilities and programs; recognizing

14   the fair housing rights of persons with disabilities; requiring

15   accommodations for persons with disabilities seeking to comment

16   on proposed state rules; and other legal precedents; and

17   WHEREAS, Jim Jackson has provided information and

18   assistance to legislators concerning disability-related issues

19   for more than thirty-eight years, including legislation

20   requiring educational services for preschool-aged children with

21   disabilities; requiring the state to establish the

22   developmental disabilities waiver program; requiring the state

23   to participate in the federal special education grant program;

24   establishing services for persons with brain injuries and

25   persons with autism; allowing for mental health advance

.210333.2

1   directives; and prohibiting corporal punishment and the use of

2   seclusion and restraints in public schools; and

3   WHEREAS, disability rights New Mexico was able to purchase

4   a building in July 2016 to serve as its main office, and that

5   building was dedicated last year by the board of directors of

6   disability rights New Mexico as the James Jackson center for

7   disability rights; and

8   WHEREAS, Jim Jackson will be retiring as the chief

9   executive officer of disability rights New Mexico as of March

10   31, 2018 but will continue his public policy advocacy in the

11   coming year as a lobbyist for disability rights New Mexico;

12   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

13   REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that James "Jim"

14   Jackson be recognized for his tireless work over thirty-eight

15   years in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities; and

16   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jim Jackson be recognized for

17   having established and developed disability rights New Mexico,

18   under its current and former name, New Mexico protection and

19   advocacy system, as an important organization that advocates

20   for as well as educates policymakers and the public on the

21   rights of persons with disabilities; and

22   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

23   transmitted to Jim Jackson and to the board of directors of

24   disability rights New Mexico.

- 3 -

.210333.2