

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING SENATOR CYNTHIA NAVA AND RECOGNIZING HER SIGNIFICANT
3 SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW MEXICO.

4
5 WHEREAS, Senator Cynthia Nava, a fierce advocate for
6 educational initiatives, retired from the senate in 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Nava, a Democrat, was first elected to
8 the senate in 1993, representing District 31 in Dona Ana
9 county; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Nava dedicated herself to public
11 service for twenty years, serving five terms in the senate;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Nava, a former superintendent of the
14 Gadsden independent school district, chaired the influential
15 senate education committee from 1997 to 2012, having served
16 as vice chair in 1994 and 1995 and as a member in 1993; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Nava received a bachelor of science and
18 master's degrees in clinical psychology from western Illinois
19 university and a doctorate of philosophy in educational
20 leadership and curriculum degree from New Mexico state
21 university; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator Nava was dedicated to the legislative
23 process, serving on numerous committees, including finance in
24 1996, corporations and transportation from 2005 to 2008,
25 public affairs from 2009 to 2012 and the committees'

1 committee from 2005 to 2012; and

2 WHEREAS, during the interim, Senator Nava continued her
3 service as chair of the legislative education study committee
4 and as a member of the excellence in higher education study
5 committee and the educational commission of the states; and

6 WHEREAS, in the span of her legislative career,
7 Senator Nava was a very effective legislator, spearheading,
8 in 2007, the Students with Disabilities Scholarship Act, the
9 Mathematics and Science Education Act and lottery
10 scholarships for military dependents and disabled students;
11 in 2008, the New Mexico School for the Arts Act; and in 2011,
12 bills requiring free school breakfast programs and the
13 expansion of eligible pre-kindergarten providers; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2005, under Senator Nava's leadership, the
15 monumental passage of Senate Bill 582 allowed and opened up
16 access for undocumented students to qualify for state and
17 institutional financial aid; and

18 WHEREAS, a student-driven campaign for the passage of
19 Senate Bill 582 was coordinated by *somos un pueblo unido*; and

20 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 582 also allowed public
21 post-secondary educational institutions to administer state
22 financial aid to undocumented students; and

23 WHEREAS, the legislation also allowed undocumented
24 students to be eligible for the legislative lottery
25 scholarship; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Nava's mentorship and support played a
2 vital role in her intern, Cindy Nava, who is of no relation,
3 becoming the first former deferred action for childhood
4 arrivals recipient to obtain a White House presidential
5 appointment in 2022; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Nava's work to expand access to the
7 New Mexico legislative lottery scholarship to the state's
8 immigrant students has changed the lives of countless
9 families and communities, forever benefiting from
10 Senator Nava's efforts; and

11 WHEREAS, during her legislative tenure, Senator Nava's
12 Gadsden independent school district made great improvements
13 for the underserved students in the district; and

14 WHEREAS, among Senator Nava's deepest passions are the
15 culinary delights that come out of her kitchen; and

16 WHEREAS, her famous homemade bread, green chile sauce
17 and incomparable creme brulee garner rave reviews whenever
18 they are served; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Nava basks in the company of her
20 daughters, Alejandra "Allie" Nava, Emiliana "Mima" Nava and
21 Xochitl "Xoch" Nava, and her husband, Ron Curry; and

22 WHEREAS, no task is ever too large and no battle ever
23 too tough to tackle for Senator Nava;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Senator Cynthia Nava be honored for

1 her significant contributions to New Mexico and her
2 unwavering dedication in assisting the underserved students
3 of New Mexico; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
5 transmitted to Senator Cynthia Nava. _____

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