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SENATE MEMORIAL 8

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

INTRODUCED BY

Lisa A. Torraco

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING "JADEN'S WAY" TO SAFE, HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SUPPORTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DENIED CARE AND SUPPORTS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL CONDITIONS.

WHEREAS, there are individuals in New Mexico whose combination of physical and behavioral health conditions makes it difficult for them to find the health care and the social supports that they desperately need; and

WHEREAS, the families of these individuals often feel helpless as they confront enormous challenges in providing round-the-clock care in dangerous and exhausting circumstances; and

WHEREAS, an example of an individual with a need for acute care and supports is Jaden Fawver, a young New Mexican who

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1 lived with multiple, complex physical and behavioral  
2 conditions, including medical fragility, Down syndrome, bipolar  
3 affective disorder, disruptive behavior, oppositional defiant  
4 disorder and an autism spectrum condition called pervasive  
5 developmental disorders; and

6 WHEREAS, Jaden's conditions presented great challenges to  
7 his family and caregivers, as he presented with intense  
8 aggression and other behaviors dangerous to himself and his  
9 family and caregivers; and

10 WHEREAS, when Jaden needed medical care, many facilities  
11 could not handle his severe medical conditions; and

12 WHEREAS, the state's public physical and behavioral health  
13 care management and payment infrastructure was at times  
14 unresponsive to Jaden's and his family's needs; and

15 WHEREAS, the lack of health care and respite care left  
16 Jaden's family with nowhere to turn to address Jaden's or their  
17 own needs; and

18 WHEREAS, tragically, Jaden Fawver passed away on January  
19 7, 2012 at the age of ten years; and

20 WHEREAS, Jaden's story of struggling for essential care is  
21 not the only tragic story of its kind taking place in New  
22 Mexico;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the senate recognize the need for safe and  
25 high-quality health care and social supports for individuals

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1 whose physical and behavioral care needs present acute  
2 challenges; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the quest for better care and  
4 supports for high-need individuals and their families be known  
5 as "Jaden's Way", in honor of Jaden Fawver, his parents,  
6 Jessica and Josh Baumeister, and the rest of Jaden's family;  
7 and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to Jessica and Josh Baumeister, the governor, the  
10 secretary of children, youth and families, the secretary of  
11 health and the secretary of human services.