



The Legislature  
of the  
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE MEMORIAL 66

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Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE RHONDA S. KING AND REPRESENTATIVE DONA G. IRWIN AND  
REPRESENTATIVE RAY BEGAYE AND REPRESENTATIVE DEBBIE A. RODELLA AND  
REPRESENTATIVE ELEANOR CHAVEZ AND REPRESENTATIVE GAIL CHASEY AND  
REPRESENTATIVE SHERYL WILLIAMS STAPLETON  
AND REPRESENTATIVE MIMI STEWART

AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE NEW MEXICO  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE DANICE  
3 PICRAUX IN THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
4

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Danice Picraux has served in the New Mexico  
6 house of representatives since 1991; and

7 WHEREAS, Danice has been a pioneer and a tireless  
8 advocate for health care, children, education, working  
9 families, small businesses, safe communities, consumer  
10 privacy, science and technology, women's equality, disability  
11 rights and cultural affairs, as well as for the people who  
12 have elected her year after year; and

13 WHEREAS, Danice is a proud, loving and devoted wife,  
14 mother and grandmother, supported in her work by her husband,  
15 Dr. Tom Picraux; her daughters, Jeanine Picraux, Laura Picraux  
16 and Samantha Picraux; and her grandchildren, Raymond Hughes,  
17 Daniel Hughes and Rachel Picraux; and

18 WHEREAS, anyone who has met Danice has surely heard her  
19 say that she loves the legislative process, a process to which  
20 she has brought the insights of a professor of political  
21 science; and

22 WHEREAS, as a passionate advocate for good government,  
23 Danice has taken pride for twenty-two years in communicating  
24 comprehensive and accurate information to her constituents  
25 about the goings-on in state government; and

1           WHEREAS, Danice was the second woman in the history of  
2 New Mexico to be elected as majority leader in the house of  
3 representatives, after first being elected by her colleagues  
4 as democratic whip; and

5           WHEREAS, during her tenure in the legislature, Danice  
6 has served as democratic caucus chair, as chair of the  
7 legislative health and human services committee, vice chair of  
8 the house appropriations and finance committee, vice chair of  
9 the voters and elections committee, vice chair of the rules  
10 and order of business committee and vice chair of the higher  
11 education committee and as a member of the legislative  
12 education study committee, the tobacco settlement revenue  
13 oversight committee, the science, technology and  
14 telecommunications committee, the printing and supplies  
15 committee and many other standing and interim committees; and

16           WHEREAS, Danice made her mark on New Mexico early on,  
17 when in 1997, she shepherded through groundbreaking school  
18 finance legislation that educators both locally and nationally  
19 called the most significant in nearly a quarter-century; and

20           WHEREAS, Danice has devotedly lent support to education  
21 and learning in general, advocating for local school  
22 districts, the university of New Mexico, central New Mexico  
23 community college, the New Mexico academy of science,  
24 scholarship programs, Title IX programs to increase  
25 opportunities in sports for girls, funding for libraries and

1 literacy, health care education and programs to foster  
2 educational opportunities for women and minorities; and

3 WHEREAS, Danice has worked for full-day kindergarten,  
4 early childhood home-visiting, early childhood screenings,  
5 immunizations and interventions and funding for pre-  
6 kindergarten and daycare programs; and

7 WHEREAS, Danice has been responsible for much of the  
8 health care legislation heard in the house during her tenure,  
9 including bills to provide affordable health care to all New  
10 Mexicans, to provide medicaid and other public coverage for  
11 low-income residents, to promote best practices in health care  
12 delivery such as the patient-centered medical home and to  
13 increase efficiencies in public health care purchasing, as  
14 well as legislation that long anticipated federal health care  
15 reform; and

16 WHEREAS, Danice has passionately advocated for meeting  
17 the state's growing need for a health care work force,  
18 sponsoring bills to create and fund a New Mexico health  
19 service corps and other health care work force "pipeline"  
20 programs to train, gather data and provide incentives to  
21 recruit and retain qualified health care workers in the state;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Danice helped pass laws related to the safety  
24 and welfare of children and families, including many laws to  
25 address, define and report the crime of domestic violence; to

1 end child abuse and exploitation; to provide a living wage;  
2 and to provide a safe environment and clean, safe air and  
3 water; and

4 WHEREAS, Danice's interest in technology fostered New  
5 Mexico's innovative use of technology in delivering health  
6 care, funding for green technology, biotechnology and  
7 bioengineering programs and opportunities for women in science  
8 and engineering; and

9 WHEREAS, Danice has fostered cultural institutions in  
10 the state such as Explora, the New Mexico museum of natural  
11 history, the New Mexico holocaust and intolerance museum and  
12 many programs to promote New Mexico culture and history; and

13 WHEREAS, for her leadership in promoting public  
14 libraries, Danice was awarded the New Mexico library  
15 association legislator of the year award in 1999; and

16 WHEREAS, Danice has helped many other women to learn the  
17 political process and run for office through groups such as  
18 the southwest women's law center and emerge New Mexico, from  
19 which she received the woman of the year award in 2008; and

20 WHEREAS, while meeting the demanding schedule of a state  
21 legislator, Danice continued in her career as a professor of  
22 political science; and

23 WHEREAS, as a legislator and political scientist, Danice  
24 has never given in to cynicism regarding the challenges of the  
25 democratic process and as a news story on her legislative work

1 reveals, for Danice, democracy "is a work in progress," as she  
2 is quoted saying, "[O]ne of these years, we'll look back and  
3 say we can be proud of some things and see that we need to  
4 change other things. That's the opportunity of democracy.  
5 It's phenomenal. One person can make a difference."; and

6 WHEREAS, through her many accomplishments on behalf of  
7 the people of New Mexico, Representative Danice Picraux is the  
8 embodiment of the idea that one person can make a difference  
9 in the democratic process, and she will be very much missed as  
10 she retires from her legislative career;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it express its  
13 sincere gratitude and congratulations to Representative Danice  
14 Picraux for her long and distinguished service to the people  
15 of New Mexico as a member of the house of representatives; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Representative Picraux be  
17 congratulated on her many accomplishments as a legislator and  
18 wished well in her upcoming retirement from public service;  
19 and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to Representative Danice Picraux.



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BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES