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HOUSE MEMORIAL 58

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Rhonda S. King

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A STUDY OF REGULATING DENTISTS WHOSE PRACTICES
INCLUDE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS WITH TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT
SYNDROME.

WHEREAS, temporomandibular joint syndrome affects an
estimated ten million people in the United States, most between
twenty and forty years old; and

WHEREAS, temporomandibular joint syndrome affects the use
of the jaw and the mouth, and can cause jaw pain, head, neck or
earaches, spasms and dizziness; and

WHEREAS, temporomandibular joint syndrome can be caused by
misalignment, stress or structural abnormalities; and

WHEREAS, treatment for temporomandibular joint syndrome
ranges from use of warm compresses to prescription of muscle
relaxants to invasive surgery to replace the joint; and

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1 WHEREAS, the New Mexico board of dental health care does
2 not currently require special credentials for a dentist who
3 performs invasive surgery to correct temporomandibular joint
4 syndrome; and

5 WHEREAS, a patient who suffers from temporomandibular
6 joint syndrome has little, if any, professional guidance in
7 seeking a dentist competent in diagnosing, treating and
8 correcting the disorder; and

9 WHEREAS, issuance of credentials to and defining the scope
10 of practice for a specialization and regulation of dentists who
11 treat temporomandibular joint syndrome would protect patient
12 safety, promote sound consumer choices of dentists involved in
13 treatment of that syndrome and more carefully regulate dentists
14 that perform surgery for that syndrome;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
17 board of dental health care be requested to adopt and
18 promulgate rules to regulate the practice of dentists who
19 diagnose, treat and correct temporomandibular joint syndrome;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to members of the New Mexico board of dental health
23 care and to the secretary of health.