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SENATE MEMORIAL 16

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Stephen H. Fischmann

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
EXPANDING THE DENTAL HEALTH CARE ACT TO ALLOW RETIRED DENTISTS
COVERAGE UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S MALPRACTICE
INSURANCE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a shortage of dental
professionals, especially in rural and frontier areas; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico dental students still receive their
training in other states and often move elsewhere to open their
practices; and

WHEREAS, excellent dentists from beyond New Mexico's
borders often retire in the land of enchantment; and

WHEREAS, many of these new New Mexico dentists are willing
and able to provide dental health care on a charity or stipend
basis, but they risk lawsuits if they do;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to study ways to allow such new New Mexico dentists to practice, ways to include them in the department of health's malpractice insurance and ways to issue limited licensing and limited continuing education credit requirements so that they may practice without significant expense or liability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of health.