

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**HOUSE MEMORIAL 45**

**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003**

**INTRODUCED BY**

Rhonda S. King

**A MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF  
REQUIRING MINORS TO WEAR HELMETS WHEN ENGAGING IN SNOW SPORTS  
OR RIDING MOTORCYCLES, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES OR BICYCLES.**

**WHEREAS, the use of helmets by minors engaging in snow  
sports or riding motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles or bicycles  
decreases the severity of injury, the likelihood of death and  
the overall cost of medical care; and**

**WHEREAS, helmets are effective in preventing traumatic  
brain injuries, which often require extensive, costly treatment  
and may result in lifelong disability, including physical  
impairment, cognitive impairment to short- and long-term memory  
and behavioral impairment; and**

**WHEREAS, among children under the age of fifteen, head  
injuries account for about twenty-two percent of total**

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = del ete

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 estimated injuries; and

2 WHEREAS, winter sports helmets reduce the risk of head and  
3 brain injury by fifty-three percent in children fifteen years  
4 of age and younger; and

5 WHEREAS, studies show that unhelmeted motorcyclists are  
6 three times more likely to suffer traumatic head and brain  
7 injuries in a crash than are helmeted riders; and

8 WHEREAS, a study conducted by the United States consumer  
9 product safety commission found that twenty percent of all-  
10 terrain vehicle accidents resulted in head injury and that at  
11 least sixty-five percent of those riders receiving head  
12 injuries were not wearing helmets; and

13 WHEREAS, head injuries account for sixty-two percent of  
14 bicycle-related deaths, thirty-three percent of bicycle-related  
15 emergency room visits and sixty-four percent of bicycle-related  
16 hospital admissions; and

17 WHEREAS, bicycle helmets have been shown to reduce the  
18 risk of head injury by as much as eighty-five percent and the  
19 risk of brain injury by as much as eighty-eight percent;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department  
22 of health be requested to study the costs and benefits of  
23 enacting legislation that would require minors engaging in snow  
24 sports or riding motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles or bicycles  
25 to wear helmets and that it report its findings and

. 147105. 1

1 recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative  
2 committee by October of 2003; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council and the  
5 department of health.

6 - 3 -  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25