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HOUSE MEMORIAL 1

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION TO CONVENE A STATE DENTAL EDUCATION SUMMIT IN COOPERATION WITH THE NEW MEXICO DENTAL ASSOCIATION TO ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF CURRENT DENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO MEET THE NEEDS AND DESIRES OF STATE RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, the health professions bureau within the health resources and services administration of the United States department of health and human services has found that New Mexico ranks forty-ninth among the states in the number of dentists per one hundred thousand population compared to New Mexico rankings of thirty-third for physicians and forty-fourth for nurses in the same survey; and

WHEREAS, the state does not have a dental school; and

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1 WHEREAS, the state has chosen instead to rely on
2 membership in the western interstate commission for higher
3 education to assist and enable a limited number of New Mexico
4 students to attend dental education programs at commission
5 member out-of-state institutions by providing loans for service
6 approximately equal to the average difference between resident
7 and nonresident tuition at those institutions; and

8 WHEREAS, the number of dentists who have chosen to locate
9 in New Mexico is insufficient to meet the state's needs; and

10 WHEREAS, the state has had only one dental hygiene
11 education program, which has remained the same size as the
12 initial program established in 1963 of twenty-four students per
13 year at the university of New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, in the fall of 2001, a second program was
15 established at San Juan college in Farmington, which attracted
16 two hundred applicants for twelve openings and admitted its
17 first students for the 2001-2002 academic year; and

18 WHEREAS, statewide access to dental care could be
19 significantly improved if additional dental education programs
20 were available to qualified students throughout the state; and

21 WHEREAS, emphasis must be placed on the recruitment and
22 retention of dentists and allied dental personnel to meet the
23 state's needs;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a dental

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1 education summit be held during the summer of 2003 to assess
2 the state's needs and demands for accredited dentist, dental
3 hygiene, dental assistant and other dental office education
4 programs; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission on higher
6 education and the New Mexico health policy commission be
7 requested to cooperate with the New Mexico dental association
8 in sponsoring and conducting a dental education summit and to
9 invite representatives of the department of health, the New
10 Mexico board of dental health care, the human services
11 department, the community college dental education coalition,
12 the New Mexico association of community colleges, the New
13 Mexico dental hygienists' association and the New Mexico dental
14 assistants association and the appropriate officials of the
15 university of New Mexico and San Juan college dental education
16 programs, other interested parties and the general public to
17 participate in the summit; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings, conclusions and
19 recommendations of the dental education summit be presented to
20 the governor, the legislative finance committee, the members of
21 the legislature and the New Mexico congressional delegation by
22 October 1, 2003; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the commission on higher education, the New
25 Mexico health policy commission and the New Mexico dental

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