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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 58

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

J. PAUL TAYLOR

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONSULT WITH HOSPITALS TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES TO MAKE HOSPITALS ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the national academy of sciences has estimated that fifteen percent of the population is experiencing increased allergic sensitivity to everyday chemicals; and

WHEREAS, severe chemical sensitivity can be disabling and is known as multiple chemical sensitivities; and

WHEREAS, multiple chemical sensitivities is recognized as a potentially disabling condition by the social security administration and the United States department of housing and urban development; and

WHEREAS, persons with multiple chemical sensitivities experience adverse health reactions when exposed to many common

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1 chemicals, including pesticides, carpets, perfumes,
2 disinfectants and cleaning products found in most hospitals; and

3 WHEREAS, persons with multiple chemical sensitivities may
4 require hospitalization in an acute care facility due to the
5 exacerbation of their condition, the need for surgery or because
6 of an accident or other medical problem and may require long or
7 intermediate care in a nursing or rehabilitation facility; and

8 WHEREAS, people with the condition have been known to avoid
9 emergency and hospital care because exposure to the hospital
10 environment would make them worse; and

11 WHEREAS, multiple chemical sensitivities is covered under
12 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which guarantees
13 access to public accommodations for people with disabilities;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, a patient may not be denied appropriate hospital
16 care because of a handicap according to the New Mexico
17 regulations governing general and special hospitals; and

18 WHEREAS, chemical barriers that block access for people
19 with multiple chemical sensitivities are analogous to physical
20 barriers that block access for people using wheelchairs; and

21 WHEREAS, Holy Cross hospital in Taos has set an example by
22 constructing and maintaining a hospital wing that is designed to
23 be accessible to patients with multiple chemical sensitivities;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, many accommodations for chemically sensitive

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1 patients are inexpensive, easy to implement and will provide a
2 more healthful environment for other patients and hospital
3 personnel;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of health,
6 with the cooperation of the governor's committee on concerns of
7 the handicapped, consult with hospital representatives, hospital
8 associations and individuals with multiple chemical
9 sensitivities to develop written guidelines for making hospitals
10 licensed in New Mexico accessible to patients with multiple
11 chemical sensitivities; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that guidelines be submitted to the
13 interim legislative health and human services committee at its
14 October 1997 meeting; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the department of health and the governor.

State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 13, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to
whom has been referred

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 58

has had it under consideration and reports same WITHOUT
RECOMMENDATION.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary King, Chairman

**FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997**

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 6 For 1 Against

Yes: 6

No: Johnson

Excused: Rios, Sandel, Vigil

Absent: None

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State of New Mexico House of Representatives

**FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997**

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FIRST SESSION, 1997**

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