

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 7

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - 2ND SPECIAL SESSION, 2000**

INTRODUCED BY

Art Hawkins

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLIES IN NEW MEXICO TO DETERMINE THE LEVELS OF FLUORIDE FOR EFFECTIVE DENTAL DECAY PREVENTION.

WHEREAS, the fluoridation of water has proven to be one of the greatest health prevention measures to be introduced in the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, water fluoridation has been the basis for the primary prevention of dental decay for fifty-five years; and

WHEREAS, water fluoridation helps to lower the cost of dental care; and

WHEREAS, a minimum of seventy-five percent of the municipal water systems delivering fluoridated water is needed to meet national oral health objectives; and

WHEREAS, sixty-five percent of New Mexico's municipal water supply is delivering the benefits of fluoridated water; and

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1           WHEREAS, twenty-one states other than New Mexico meet  
2 the national oral health objective of seventy-five percent or  
3 higher; and of those twenty-one states fourteen are at ninety  
4 percent or higher, and four states are at one hundred  
5 percent; and

6           WHEREAS, New Mexico should also have one hundred percent  
7 optimum fluoride in its public water supplies;

8           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health, with the  
10 cooperation of the department of environment, be requested to  
11 study the municipal water supplies in New Mexico to determine  
12 which municipal water supplies have optimum levels of  
13 fluoridation and make recommendations regarding issues of  
14 fluoridation, including the following:

15           A. the costs and resources required to fluoridate  
16 municipal water systems serving over two thousand five  
17 hundred people;

18           B. the costs and resources required to fluoridate  
19 municipal water systems serving fewer than two thousand five  
20 hundred people;

21           C. legislatively mandating fluoridation for  
22 municipal water;

23           D. the need for establishment of a statewide  
24 dental health fluoride advisory committee; and

25           E. determination of the barriers to optimum  
fluoridation of municipal water supplies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health,

underscoring material = new  
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1 with the cooperation of the department of environment, be  
2 requested to review the literature and compile the most  
3 current information concerning sub-optimum, optimum and  
4 excessive fluoride levels in drinking water; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health,  
6 with the cooperation of the department of environment, be  
7 requested to review current fluoridation initiatives in small  
8 population, surrounding and rural states and compile a  
9 report; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health,  
11 with the cooperation of the department of environment, be  
12 requested to review current fluoridation initiatives of the  
13 Indian health service and compile a report; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health,  
15 with the cooperation of the department of environment, be  
16 requested to report its findings by November 1, 2000 to the  
17 appropriate legislative interim committee; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
19 transmitted to the chairman of the appropriate legislative  
20 interim committee and the secretaries of health and  
21 environment.  
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