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HOUSE MEMORIAL 7

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006**

INTRODUCED BY

Keith J. Gardner

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF  
NEW MEXICO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES' MEDICAL  
MALPRACTICE REFORM.

WHEREAS, a fair and efficient legal system that is free  
from frivolous and abusive litigation is necessary for a  
vibrant economy and for access to affordable health care; and

WHEREAS, rapidly increasing medical malpractice awards are  
driving up malpractice insurance premiums, reducing access to  
health care and fueling the rapid growth in health care costs;  
and

WHEREAS, frivolous and abusive medical lawsuits lead to  
hospital closings, doctors refusing to see new patients and, in  
some cases, doctors leaving the state; and

WHEREAS, a reasonable cap on damage awards protects

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1 patients from rising costs of and diminishing access to health  
2 care; and

3 WHEREAS, victims who suffer losses, not victims'  
4 attorneys, should receive the largest share of damage awards;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, medical malpractice reforms that enact caps on  
7 damage awards, allow for the inclusion of collateral source  
8 payments in jury considerations and impose time limits on the  
9 filing of lawsuits will enhance access to health care, lower  
10 medical insurance premiums and lower the cost of health care;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico  
13 congressional delegation be requested to support the president  
14 of the United States' medical malpractice liability reform; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to all members of the New Mexico congressional  
17 delegation.

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