

SOUTHERN PUEBLOS COUNCIL

Acoma - Cochiti - Isleta - Jemez - San Felipe - Sandia - Santa Ana - Santo Domingo - Zia - Ysleta del Sur

SOUTHERN PUEBLO GOVERNORS RESOLUTION # 2014 - 004

- Whereas** There is a present high unmet need for dental care among our Indian people and part of the problem is the lack of skilled dental labor workforce servicing our Native American patient population on our reservations and in the off-reservation urban areas.
- Whereas** Our Pueblo Tribes are sovereign nations and have a right to seek healthcare resources to serve the healthcare and dental needs of our Pueblo people.
- Whereas** New Mexico doesn't have enough dentists. As a result, thousands of New Mexicans can't get dental care when they need it, where they live. This includes working families and children in rural, Tribal and underserved communities, as well as elders and persons with disabilities.
- Whereas** thousands of New Mexicans, many of them children, elders, persons with disabilities, and working families do not have access to quality, affordable dental care;
- Whereas** a model Dental Therapist program has been in existence, and has been thoroughly evaluated for safety, quality, and appropriate scope of practice in Alaska with the Alaska Native patient population in collaboration with Indian Health Service and the Alaska Native Tribes and others;
- Whereas** The Dental Therapist program has received high results and accolades from patients, health care professionals and community leaders in the U.S. and in over 50 other countries;
- Whereas** New Mexico has the talents and the means to replicate and sustain this model with existing training institutions and communities that are need of this program;

Be it therefore resolved that we, the Southern Pueblos Council endorse and support this program to be fully approved under New Mexico law as early as the 2014 New Mexico legislative session.

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Resolution was duly passed at the regularly scheduled Southern Pueblos Council meeting held

This 10th day of July, 2014, with 7 Voting in Support, and 0 Voting
Against and 0 Abstained.



Honorable Governor E, Paul Torres
Chairman, Southern Pueblos Council



Secretary, Southern Pueblos Council