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## **Dental Therapist-Hygienist Bill on Governor's Call**

Santa Fe, NM — Senate Bill 76/House Bill 306, the Dental Therapist-Hygienist Licensure Act, has been added to Gov. Susana Martinez's call for 2014. If passed, this legislation would include dental therapist-hygienists (DTHs) as a part of New Mexico's dental team. DTHs would improve access to high-quality, cost-effective dental services and provide economic opportunity for New Mexico's underserved, rural and tribal communities. In addition, introducing dental therapist-hygienists to underserved communities in New Mexico would create jobs, economic and career path opportunities for community members.

"We feel this bill is particularly timely for this legislative session given the governor's initiative for economic development and job growth in New Mexico," said Barbara K. Webber, executive director of Health Action New Mexico (HANM). HANM drafted the bill, which has bipartisan sponsorship by Sen. Benny Shendo and Rep. Dennis J. Roch.

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*Health Action New Mexico (HANM) is a Bernalillo-based non-profit organization. Our mission is to achieve affordable, accessible & accountable health care for all people living in the state of New Mexico. Contact HANM: (505) 867-1095, [info@healthactionnm.org](mailto:info@healthactionnm.org) or [www.HealthActionNM.org](http://www.HealthActionNM.org).*