



Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce  
**CHAMBER ALERT**

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## **Multiple Chemical Sensitivity: When *Everything* Makes You Sick**

Imagine being sued because the glue on your office carpet, or the air freshener you use in your company restrooms, or the perfume your assistant is wearing, is making one of your customers sick. People suffering from a rare condition that has been termed "multiple chemical sensitivity" claim that a vast array of chemicals—from adhesives, to cleaning solutions, to personal hygiene products—make them sick.

Though a handful of people across the country claim they are suffering from this disorder, the medical community has yet to recognize multiple chemical sensitivity as a legitimate illness.

Legislation has been introduced into the House that, if passed, would appropriate \$160,000 to study the prevalence and economic impact of multiple chemical sensitivity. In addition, a House Joint Memorial requests that the Governor's Committee on Concerns of the Handicapped work with the State Housing Authority to study ways in which the state can help provide housing and shelter for people with multiple chemical sensitivities. This study would be designed to assess barriers to housing that exist for people with MCS and consider solutions for eliminating those barriers such as zoning exemptions, building code variances and public education aimed at the housing rental industry.

While there may be no obvious harm in simply studying the issue, the fact that MCS is gaining recognition in the Legislature could have major implications for the business community in the future.

The Chamber, in its 1997 Legislative Package, cites opposition to any special legislation that would impose restrictions on owners and operators of buildings to accommodate those suffering from MCS.

Such legislation, the Chamber believes, could open the door for lawsuits aimed at architects, builders, suppliers and business owners. Businesses found to have chemical agents in their workplaces that aggravate MCS symptoms could be fined, required to pay damages or ordered to remove certain chemical agents from their offices.

Over time, special legislation for multiple chemical sensitivity sufferers could cost the state's businesses millions.

***Please call your Legislators and voice your opinion  
about Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Legislation!***

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**Be a voice for business! Call your legislators today!**

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