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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/4/09

SPONSOR Beffort LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Robert Wood Johnson Center, In Recognition SM 49

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Health Policy Commission (HPC)

Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 49 recognizes the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico for its achievements and future promise.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy is a collaborative project established in 2007 between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of New Mexico.

The goal of the center is to become a nationally recognized location where research is conducted that will inform health policy debates at multiple levels.

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The center is home to leading experts on health policy, nursing, economics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, political science and journalism.

The center serves to increase the number and diversity of those with formal training in those fields who engage in health services and health policy research.

The center is the only institution dedicated to increasing the number of leaders from Latino and American Indian communities to help shape the future of the state's and nation's health care.

Since its inception, the center has accomplished numerous significant achievements, including establishing the Center for Native American Health Policy, creating the Institute For The Study Of Race And Social Justice, developing a policy brief on health care reform in New Mexico and publishing a book, *Good Food, Good Health - from Field to Feast Wellness Handbook*.

The center is poised to provide significant assistance to the New Mexico legislature, beginning with its policy brief on health care reform in New Mexico, which included information from a statewide survey of New Mexico adults that examined their attitudes regarding health care reform.

Through additional surveys and analysis, the center will continue to contribute to the health reform debate in New Mexico.

Through its initiatives, the center is addressing pressing social, economic and cultural issues that affect the well-being of all New Mexicans and all Americans.

The DOH notes:

Health disparities are the difference in health and the impact of disease on different race and ethnic groups. In New Mexico there are many factors that contribute to health disparities including: access to health care, behavioral choices, genetic predisposition, poverty, environmental and occupational conditions, language barriers, social and cultural factors and discrimination in the health care setting.

In order to effectively address health disparities in New Mexico, it is important to conduct research using the available data and resource information to develop evidence-based policies to improve the quality of and access to preventative health and health services in the state.

According to the HPC, the Robert Wood Johnson Center for Health Policy has a goal of graduating 100 minority students in health policy in its first 5 years. The Center has established a Center for Native American Health Policy, an Institute for the Study of Race and Social Justice and published a policy brief on health care reform in New Mexico and a book on wellness and nutrition.

GH/mt