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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/26/06

SPONSOR Moore LAST UPDATED _____ HB 74

SHORT TITLE Youth Violence Prevention Programs SB _____

ANALYST Earp

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$710.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

Department of Health (DOH)

Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 74 appropriates \$710,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) to support the continuation and expansion of youth violence prevention programs statewide.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$710,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This request was not in the list of priority projects submitted by ENMU to the Higher Education Department (HED) for review. Consequently, this request was not included in the Department's

funding recommendation for fiscal year 2007.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

ENMU currently administers a federal Department of Justice grant supporting this program and would retain administrative authority and accountability for the program if this legislation is adopted.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HED reports that this legislation would provide state support for the STOP the Violence (Students Taking on Prevention) program. This is a peer-to-peer outreach initiative that empowers young people to recognize, report, and reduce the potential for youth violence. Funding for program development and piloting was provided by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Members of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) are taking steps to address youth violence prevention and make their schools and communities safer. The program is currently grant funded by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The FCCLA sponsors the program which currently supports a state coordinator who is housed at Eastern New Mexico University. Through the use of contracted services; the coordinator has been able to establish successful programs within 20 school districts in the state. Due to the success of the program; the funding request will support the existing programs in place with the hope to double in size to 40 school districts at the end of 2007.

The Department of Health reports that New Mexico has some of the highest rates of youth violence in the country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2002, New Mexico had the worst state rates of violent deaths and suicides for all ages. Suicide and homicide were the second and third leading causes of death for 15-24 year olds in New Mexico. One-third of all injury deaths in New Mexico were violence-related. Firearms were responsible for 50% of all New Mexico homicides and 60% of all New Mexico suicides. According to the New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey, in New Mexico high schools, one in ten students was threatened or injured with a weapon at school in 2003 and 12% reported being the victim of dating violence. One-third of high school students also reported being in a physical fight – 13% of which occurred at school.

Violent acts such as suicide and homicide are often preceded by a long history of bullying, fighting, victimization or witnessing of violence. These patterns of violence often start at very early ages. Research-based best practices in violence prevention suggest that a full range of violence prevention programs have been effective in reducing youth violence.

DKE/nt