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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/2/06

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 485

SHORT TITLE UNM Children's Law Center Training & Info SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Hoffmann

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)  
 Higher Education Department (HED)  
 Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 485 appropriates \$250,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico to increase funding for the Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center. The funding would support training, technical assistance, research assistance and information dissemination in the areas of child abuse, child neglect and juvenile justice.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250,000 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**

Funding for the Corinne Wolfe Children’s Law Center was included as a line-item in the Higher Education Department’s budget request. The amount of the request for fiscal year 2007 is \$65,500.

According to the UNM Law School’s Institute of Public Law (IPL), the Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center at the institute has conducted training for parents' attorneys in civil abuse and neglect cases and launched an update of the New Mexico Child Welfare Handbook. Because of groundwork it laid, New Mexico is about to become one of the first states where attorneys will be certified in child welfare law.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

According to the Higher Education Department, the \$250,000 request would support delivery of the comprehensive training services needed by community constituents. The appropriation would be used for staff salaries/travel (for staff attorney; training event coordinator; publication specialist; webmaster; administrative personnel), conference facilities, speakers/trainers, training materials, and library/electronic resources.

CH/mt