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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Taylor ORIGINAL DATE 1-30-06
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Oral Health Initiatives Program SB 539
ANALYST Collard

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 425 and HB 294

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 539 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to DOH for the purpose of providing treatment for and educating children on the ill effects of methamphetamine on the mouth. The bill also calls for DOH to provide oral health treatment for special needs children and orthodontia for children with cleft palates.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH states, according to the American Dental Association (ADA), "In addition to numerous threats to overall health, methamphetamine users risk rampant tooth decay in a distinctive pattern on the smooth front surface of the teeth and the spaces between the front teeth."

The ADA states: "Methamphetamine users' teeth have been described as 'blackened, stained, rotting, crumbling or falling apart.' Often, the teeth cannot be saved and must be extracted." In addition, "The rampant caries associated with methamphetamine use is attributed to the following: the acidic nature of the drug, the drug's xerostomic (dry mouth) effect, its propensity to cause cravings for high calorie carbonated beverages, tooth grinding and clenching and its long duration of action leading to extended periods of poor oral hygiene."

Charles Tatlock, D.D.S., M.P.H., Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery, Division of Dental Services of the University of New Mexico's Health Sciences Center, and his colleague, Stephen Wagner, D.D.S. of Albuquerque, NM, have been conducting formal research on the oral effects of methamphetamine use for the last two years at the University of New Mexico and its affiliated dental clinics.

The DOH Children's Medical Services Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program provides care coordination for children and youth served in the community-based Cleft Lip and Palate Programs. In FY05 418 children and youth with cleft palate were served. In addition, children and youth with cleft palate diagnoses who are not Medicaid eligible receive medical/dental coverage. This program has limited funding to cover the costs. The department indicates the proposed funding in this bill could assist the program in addressing needs.

The DOH Office of Dental Health provides oral health education to children and adolescents on a variety of topics through the program and contracting agencies. DOH notes the proposed additional funding would support these efforts.

RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 539 relates to House Bill 294 which appropriates \$200 thousand from the general fund to DOH to support the development of up to three pilot sites designed to increase access to oral health care services in school-based health centers for underserved students and Senate Bill 425 which appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to DOH to contract with a non-profit school-based portable dental program to provide dental screening examinations and dental sealants to uninsured low-income children not eligible for Medicaid but who are eligible for the free or reduced school lunch program in rural school districts.

KBC/mt