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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/09/2007  
 SPONSOR Sanchez, B LAST UPDATED 2/16/2007 HB \_\_\_\_\_  
 SHORT TITLE UNM Health Sciences Center Career Pathways SB 299/aSEC  
 ANALYST Moser

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$1,855.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates: HB 660

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

NM Department of Higher Education (HED)  
 Department of Health (DOH)  
 Health Policy Commission  
 Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of SEC Amendment

The Senate Education Committee amendment makes minor adjustments to the language and removes the provision of stipends to students. The funding level was left unchanged.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 299 appropriates \$1,855,000 from the General Fund for expenditure in FY08 and FY09 to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the Health Sciences Center (HSC). Funding would be used to encourage students underrepresented in the health sciences to enter and graduate from health or allied health professions programs.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$1,855,000 contained in this bill appears on the surface to be non-recurring expense to the General fund. However, this funding is sought by UNMHSC due to the loss of federal funds that have previously sustained this program. It would appear that this funding is truly recurring. This issue will need to be clarified as this bill moves forward.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 09 shall revert to the general Fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

These programs strive to build diversity in the health professions by providing underrepresented students the opportunity to develop the skills needed to successfully compete for admission to and graduation from health professions programs. The Office of Diversity coordinates the flagship educational pipeline for New Mexico students interested in medical professions. The programs have been funded through federal grants from the Department of Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Health Careers Opportunity Programs (HCOP); however, these funds are rapidly dwindling due to other federal budget priorities.

Both PED and the HED indicate that the educational pipeline begins at the middle-school level and continues to medical school and includes:

- Dream Makers Health Careers Clubs (middle school program)
- Health Careers Academy (high school program)
- Undergraduate Health Sciences Enrichment Program (UNM undergraduate program)
- New Mexico Clinical Education Program (pre-UNM School of Medicine program)

HED points out that this proposal was not submitted to the HED by UNM nor was it included as either a priority of UNM board of regents or in the HED request for funding in FY08.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

PED indicates that while this legislation is not linked to any specific performance measures for the PED, stipends for students in the health sciences field may encourage more individuals to enter into health or allied health professions, which may assist New Mexico and public schools with the nursing and other health professional shortage. Having a career path may encourage attendance thus increasing academic achievement.

GM/mt:csd