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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/17/07 **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____
SHORT TITLE Lupus Research Efforts **SB** SJM 21
ANALYST Hanika Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 21 proposes that the legislature take into consideration the enactment of the Lupus Research Enhancement Act (LREA), which will make lupus research grants available to state academic medical institutions and will also establish an advisory council to review submitted grant applications and make recommendations for future projects.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact. However, the memorial resolves that the legislature take into consideration the enactment of the Lupus Research Enhancement Act and authorize appropriations deemed necessary to take care of those New Mexicans who suffer from lupus.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Senate Joint Memorial 21 has the following comments:

- Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that causes inflammation of various parts of the body, especially the skin, joints, blood and kidneys.

- The immune system normally protects the body against viruses, bacteria and other foreign materials.
- In an autoimmune disease like lupus, the immune system loses its ability to tell the difference between foreign substances and its own cells and tissues.
- The immune system then makes antibodies directed against "self".
- Lupus attacks vital organs, causes disabilities and can be fatal.
- There are approximately one million five hundred thousand to two million Americans who suffer from lupus.
- In New Mexico, with a population of one million eight hundred seventy-four thousand six hundred fourteen people, there are nine thousand six hundred sixty-nine reported cases of lupus.
- Lupus affects women nine times more than men.
- Lupus is two to three times more common among African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Native Americans.
- About five percent of the children born to individuals with lupus will develop the illness.
- There are no new cures for lupus.
- There have been no new drugs approved from the food and drug administration for lupus in nearly forty years.
- The Lupus Research Enhancement Act creates a lupus research enhancement program to make grants to state academic medical institutions that conduct basic, clinical, social, translational, technological, epidemiological and behavioral research on lupus.
- The Lupus Research Enhancement Act establishes a lupus research advisory council to review submitted grant applications and make recommendations to the appropriate state agencies.
- The Lupus Research Enhancement Act calls upon the council to consult with the national institutes of health, the centers for disease control and prevention, the agency for healthcare research and quality, the institute of medicine and lupus advocacy groups to solicit information regarding lupus research projects currently being conducted and make recommendations for future projects.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The memorial further resolves that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the children's cabinet of the office of the governor.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DOH staff could serve on and aid the LREA advisory council.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH has the following comments:

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that causes inflammation of various parts of the body, especially the skin, joints, and kidneys. Lupus is unpredictable, highly individualized, hard to live with, and sometimes fatal. As many as 10,000 New Mexicans may have lupus, based on the National Lupus Foundation's estimate that 1 in 182 people have this disease. (Lupus Foundation of America NM Chapter). To date, there is no known cause or cure. However, early detection and treatment can usually lessen the progression and severity of the debilitating disease.

Senate Joint Memorial 21 – Page 3

The memorial creates a state level version of work going on at the national level through the Lupus Research Institute (LRI). Since 2000, LRI has raised millions and awarded nearly \$20 million in grants to 73 scientists at leading institutions nationwide. To date, 65 percent of LRI investigators who completed their LRI studies have gone on to secure large-scale funding from the NIH and other government offices. The LRI recently formed a National Coalition of state and local lupus organizations and committed individuals. They note this has already had an enormous impact, starting with pivotal work in advocating for a 2004 congressional directive to the NIH to develop a 5-year trans-institute research plan for lupus.

ALTERNATIVES

DOH suggests that the memorial could also propose to investigate to what extent New Mexico academic medical institutions are already receiving funding for lupus research; and, to what extent lupus organizations are networking with, and benefiting from, national efforts such as the LRI National Coalition.

AMENDMENTS

DOH further suggests on page 3, line 13, after “deemed necessary to” delete “take care of those New Mexicans who suffer from lupus” and replace with “strengthen the research efforts to identify the causes of and cure for lupus” which is language from SJM 21’s introduction.

AHO/nt