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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/16/07

SPONSOR Jennings LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Native American Health Care Laws Suits Merits SJM 73

ANALYST Baca

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 73 requests the Office of the Attorney General investigate the merits of a lawsuit against the United States to enforce treaty obligations to provide health care to Native Americans.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SJM 73 contains no appropriation. However, there are implicit but unknown costs in honoring its provisions.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SJM 73 cites the federal government's treaty obligations to Native Americans generally and commitment to providing health care specifically. The bill relates the decreasing federal support for health care for Native Americans, the creating of conditions that tend to discourage Native Americans from seeking health care in a timely manner and the adverse impact on their health they seek assistance outside the BIA health care system. The federal government's responsibility is founded on treaty, statute constitution and ethics, according to the memorial.

The memorial notes that The Indian health service, prior to the funding cuts, spent an estimated one thousand nine hundred twenty dollars (\$1,920) per patient per year, which is less than half the amount spent for veterans, for federal prisoners or for Medicare recipients.

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The memorial also points out the New Mexico and other states cannot bear the sole fiscal responsibility for providing health care to their Native American populations.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

SJM 73 requests that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the Attorney General, the Secretary of Indian Affairs, the President of the Navajo Nation, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, the President of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the President of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, the Chair of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the governors of the nineteen Indian pueblos in New Mexico and the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.

LRB/csd