

April 10, 2015

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 23

The Honorable Mary Kay Papen, President Pro Tempore and
Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable President Pro Tempore Papen and Members of the Senate:

I have this day SIGNED SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 291, as amended, with emergency clause, enacted by the Fifty-Second Legislature, First Session, 2015, except the following parts or parts, item or items, which I have vetoed pursuant to Article IV, Section 22 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico:

On page 26, I have vetoed all of lines 5 through 14.

This is a duplicate appropriation that attempts to reauthorize the same funding twice in this legislation.

On page 35, I have vetoed all of lines 24 through 25 and on page 36, I have vetoed all of lines 1 through 13.

I certainly support increasing access to substance abuse treatment, transitional living programs for those who have been incarcerated, and mental health services in Valencia County; in fact, a portion of the funding that is being reauthorized from this original statewide/executive appropriation will be used to construct a crisis triage center in the county to help those struggling with mental illnesses and substance abuse issues. Another portion of the funding will allow for innovative transitional living programs for women who are transitioning out of the correctional system and back into traditional life. I cannot, however, support this specific reauthorization of funds to the proposed residential transitional substance abuse facility in Belen. Establishing these types of facilities requires significant and complex planning, not only with respect to the construction and classification of the facility itself, but also regarding future funding sources for operational costs once the facility is open.

My staff has had contact with local officials to try to obtain answers to the numerous questions generated by this proposed reauthorization, and yet we have still not been provided any of the

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critical details pertaining to this facility, including the proposed bed count (which determines how it is regulated and constructed), a business plan to ensure financial viability, and whether the plans include meeting required standards for federal Medicaid reimbursement. We have, however, been told by the local government that they would expect the State General Fund to pay at least \$6 million in annual operational costs for the facility. For these many reasons, I am vetoing this project. The funding will, of course, revert back to its original purpose, which remains in Valencia County, and can potentially be reauthorized once again during the next legislative session.

Respectfully yours,

Susana Martinez
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2015

By _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2015

By _____
Chief Clerk of the Senate