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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/2/18

SPONSOR Armstrong LAST UPDATED _____ HM 14

SHORT TITLE Pediatric Specialty Care Task Force SB _____

ANALYST Chenier

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		See Fiscal Implications	See Fiscal Implications			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Presbyterian Health Services (PHS)

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

House Memorial 14 asks the New Mexico Pediatric Society to convene a task force to study the state’s children’s needs for subspecialty care and to make recommendations to the Legislative Interim Committee on Health and Human Services regarding means of improving access to that care. It notes the shortage of pediatric subspecialty care outside Albuquerque, and the barriers between provider of such specialties as pediatric gastroenterology, pediatric endocrinology and pediatric cardiology and patients belonging to one or another of the health insurance companies, including Medicaid agencies.

The New Mexico Pediatric Society would be asked to invite the Human Services Department, the Department of Health, the New Mexico Legislature, the University of New Mexico Children’s Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital, the Medicaid managed care organizations, and New Mexico family members to send delegates to join the task force, to work towards the goals of improving children’s health outcomes and patient and family satisfaction with their care, and to best use New Mexico’s limited resources in pediatric subspecialty care in a cost-effective manner.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no appropriations associated with this memorial. New Mexico Pediatric Society officers and staff would absorb the costs of setting up meetings, meeting agendas, and locations. To the extent state employees attend these meetings, these state agencies would have to reimburse mileage.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Unlike the situation with adult subspecialty care in New Mexico, which includes subspecialists in many communities throughout the state, there are almost no subspecialists caring for children outside the city of Albuquerque. Care for children with such conditions as diabetes, congenital heart disease, pediatric cancers, and inflammatory bowel disease is either provided by the pediatric subspecialties in Albuquerque, by some of the same subspecialists traveling to briefly-held clinics in other parts of New Mexico, or by adult subspecialists. The first of these options requires travel of the patient; the second may require travel by both patients and subspecialists and are only intermittently available, and the third requires that the adult subspecialist perform evaluations and treatments beyond their usual scope of practice and knowledge. This being the case, the Memorial specifies the importance of coordination of subspecialty care, both to the benefit of the patients and to the subspecialists.

Almost all pediatric subspecialty care in New Mexico is provided either through the Presbyterian Hospital system or through the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. Although the physicians in the two locations are generally collegial and collaborative, the institutions in which they work have not always eliminated barriers caused by insurance carriers' provider networks and other impediments to access to pediatric care. The Memorial asks that patients and providers work together to eliminate these impediments to the extent possible.

The New Mexico Pediatric Society (NMPS), consisting of more than 200 pediatricians from throughout New Mexico, is a chapter of the American Academy of Pediatricians, which itself has 67,000 members. The NMPS members have experienced some of their patients' frustrations over barriers to needed subspecialty care of those patients.

Presbyterian Healthcare Services states that it "would look forward to participating in this task force as it aligns with our purpose to improve the health of the communities we serve."

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