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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/6/06

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED _____ HB 491

SHORT TITLE UNM Family Development Program SB _____

ANALYST Lewis

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|---------------|-------|-------------------------|------------------|
| FY06 | FY07 | | |
| | 555.0 | Recurring | General Fund |
| | | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 79.

Relates to HB 726 (Expand UNM Family Development Program)

Relates to SB 646 (UNM Family Development Program)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 491 appropriates \$555,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the Family Development Program's Statewide Training Outreach Program and the Family Development Program's Comprehensive Training Program based on brain development research in the science of early learning.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$555,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

As of 2/6/06, Senate Bill 415 includes \$400,000 to expand services for the Family Development Program, including personal services and employee benefits of additional full-time-equivalent positions;

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the University of New Mexico (UNM), the Family Development Program (FDP) within the UNM College of Education, provides research-based professional development workshops throughout New Mexico, and disseminates educational materials relevant to children's early education and development. The workshops and materials reflect current research on the critical importance of children's development in the first years of life and on how children learn best. They are based on research in family-centered, multicultural, bilingual education and match national recommendations for best practices for training teachers to help teachers and family members respond to young children's earliest delight in learning.

UNM notes that in 2004-2005, FDP brought together 1,385 teachers, staff, parents and other family members from 98 communities throughout New Mexico to participate in 116 professional and skills development workshops. FDP's Family Development Journal is distributed semiannually to school superintendents, directors of instruction, elementary school principals, early childhood educators, parents, and pediatricians, various community-based programs, and, through a partnership with the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), to 8,000 registered child care providers.

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), the Family Development Program is one of the top initiatives identified by the UNM Board of Regents for this year. This bill's appropriation would help provide statewide training outreach and expand FDP's current comprehensive training program based on brain development research in the science of early learning. Of the \$555,000 appropriated:

- \$250,000 would augment the base budget to meet increasing demand for statewide early childhood professional development; and
- \$305,000 would help develop statewide training capacity so that the program "Mind in the Making: The Science of Early Learning" could be offered to both rural and urban communities who have requested this training.

HED notes that New Mexico is the first state in the nation to implement a program of this type, which utilizes the latest brain research information about how children learn. With past state support and other grant money, this internationally recognized program provides statewide training to members of the public as well as state entities. It serves the community directly by promoting opportunities for families and individuals to recognize their strengths, set their own agendas, and make creative changes in their lives.

HED adds that the need for professional development in a rural state like New Mexico is tremendous. In 2004-2005, only 67% of the proposed community partnerships could be served due to staffing limitations. Additional funding would provide service to 50 more communities impacting 25,000 children.

The proposal was submitted to the Higher Education Department by UNM and included in

HED's funding recommendation for FY07 in the total amount of \$663,100 (including \$413,100 base appropriation, plus \$250,000 for expansion).

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

According to HED, this appropriation would support the state goals of closing the achievement gap and assuring educational success for all children. Mind in the Making: New Mexico expects to serve at least 200 early childhood educators each year impacting more than 4,000 young children.

ML/nt