

March 12, 2014

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 144

The Honorable W. Ken Martinez, Speaker of the House and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable Speaker Martinez and Members of the House:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return HOUSE BILL 63, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-First Legislature, Second Session, 2014.

House Bill 63 requires the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to enter into memoranda of understanding with the counties of Luna, Grant, and Hidalgo for the purpose of creating a single, three-year demonstration project to provide behavioral health services to inmates of county detention center facilities and to individuals who have been released from county detention center custody.

While the intention of providing behavioral health services to inmates and those offenders who have been released from custody is honorable, House Bill 63 places an unfunded burden on state agencies and assigns responsibility for the funding to the wrong agency. House Bill 63 also duplicates existing services and available programs offered by the Behavioral Health Collaborative and the Behavioral Health Services Division under the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD).

As the State's primary fiscal agent, DFA is not the appropriate entity to effectively carry out the measures outlined in House Bill 63 regarding program development, implementation, and oversight. Mandating participation from a state agency that has no expertise in behavioral health services would not only place the success of the project in jeopardy, but also risk the overall quality of care for participants.

Additionally, Luna, Grant, and Hidalgo counties already have the ability to initiate programs and demonstration projects using their available resources and funds. While the State often provides support to local counties and municipalities in their endeavors, House Bill 63 shifts the creation, oversight, and funding responsibilities of this

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 144

The Honorable W. Ken Martinez

March 12, 2014

Page 2

demonstration project from local jurisdiction to the State. Moreover, House Bill 63 targets only three of New Mexico's 33 counties. For these reasons, this is not an appropriate use of state resources. I encourage Luna, Grant, and Hidalgo counties to explore the possibility of piloting this well-intentioned project at the local level.

For the reasons stated, I cannot support House Bill 63.

Respectfully yours,

Susana Martinez
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2014

By _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____, 2014

By _____
Chief Clerk of the House