

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/11/18

SPONSOR Chasey LAST UPDATED _____ HM 97

SHORT TITLE Grief Counseling Needs Proposal SB _____

ANALYST Dulany

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Limited Fiscal Impact			Nonrecurring	Institution Operating Budget

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, Section 4J, Higher Education

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Not Received From

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

House Memorial 97 requests the Office of the State Medical Investigator (OMI) to work with the Grief Resource Center and others to develop a financial and care proposal that includes criteria necessary to meet the grief counseling needs of New Mexico communities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

OMI is likely to incur limited costs in terms of staff time in carrying out the provisions of the memorial.

OMI receives about \$4.7 million in annual recurring general fund appropriations. HAFCS/HB 2 & 3 includes an increase of \$500 thousand for OMI in FY19.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to OMI's website, OMI currently offers the Grief Services Program (GSP) at no cost

to participants. These services provided by master's level mental health professionals include:

- Individual and family counseling therapy;
- Crisis intervention services, including telephone consultation, home visits, and meetings with families at OMI;
- Referrals to appropriate community resources;
- Support group facilitation;
- Advocacy; and
- Facilitation of meetings with pathologists or investigators and family members to review autopsy reports.

OMI's website further indicates the office provides grief education and training throughout New Mexico for agencies such as law enforcement, emergency responders, nurses, mental health providers, teachers, and other groups requesting training.

TD/jle