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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/2/2020

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Med Students for Underserved Communities SB 58

ANALYST Valenzuela

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

2019 LFC Progress Report: State of Financing of UNM Health Sciences Center, Program Evaluation Unit of the Legislative Finance Committee.

Responses Received From

UNM Health Sciences Center (NM/HSC)
Higher Education Department (HED)
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 58 appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to the medical school at UNM Health Sciences Center for the purpose of preparing medical students for practicing in underserved communities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

Funds from this appropriation will provide for faculty and staff time to organize and maintain training experiences, mentoring, seminars/workshops, conferences, and student academic support. Costs of faculty and staff travel to sites around the state and to related conferences, for student travel and housing when working with clinicians in locations throughout the state, as well as

operational costs of the program components are also included.

The NMHED submits its higher education funding recommendation to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) on November 1 as is required by statute. UNM did not submit this request to the NMHED for possible incorporation into the NMHED higher education funding recommendation. The NMHED has a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions when developing the NMHED funding recommendation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to UNM HSC, the Rural and Urban Underserved Program (RUUP) was established in 2015 with a federal grant, a grant that will end on June 30, 2020. The RUUP program is designed to match medical students with healthcare providers throughout the state. The program allows medical students to practice under the mentorship of practicing physicians in medically underserved communities. UNM HSC reports student participation has grown to almost a quarter of all medical students. In its first year, the program began with 14 students and has grown to 90 students last year, according to UNM.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The *2019 LFC's Progress Report* showed that only 23 percent of UNM medical school graduates practice medicine in New Mexico, indicating that medical students have a higher likelihood to practice where they complete their residency. Residencies can last from three to seven years, depending on the specialization. The LFC also reported that when a medical student both graduated and completed their residency in New Mexico, the percentage who practice in the state increased to 54 percent.

Though not a residency program, the RUUP program may be helpful to increasing the number of UNM medical students who seek a residency in New Mexico. Complementing RUUP would be a connection to the UNM BA/MD program, which is designed to bring New Mexico students from rural communities, pay for their undergraduate education, guarantee them a slot in the medical school, with the hope that those students will practice medicine in New Mexico.

Of the 98 MD graduates from UNM's combined BA/MD program since 2006, 76 are still completing their residencies (23 in state and 53 out of state). Sixteen graduates have completed their residencies and are practicing in state, but only six are practicing outside the Bernalillo County metro area. A 2011 LFC evaluation found that the return on investment from the combined BA/MD program is not realized for at least a decade, and recommended other methods of physician recruitment might be more cost-effective.

MFV/sb