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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Aragon DATE TYPED: 3/5/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Right to Health Care, CA SB SJR34
 ANALYST: Esquibel

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
N/A					

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB911

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Human Services Department (HSD)
 State Agency on Aging (SAOA)
 NM Health Policy Commission (HPC)

No Response

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Resolution 34 proposes to amend Article 2 of the NM Constitution by adopting a new Section 25 that would provide New Mexicans with the right to accessible, available and medically necessary health care.

Significant Issues

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Secretary of State's office would cover out of its operating budget the \$30.0 necessary to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot.

The inherent cost of providing accessible, available and medically necessary health care to all New Mexicans would be quite significant.

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HSD indicates it provides some of the services prescribed in the resolution through the Medicaid program, and some services are also available through the Medicare program.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SJR34 does not include definitions of “medically necessary health services, accessible and available” health care.

HSD indicates problems associated with denial of service based on “medical necessity” could raise constitutional challenges.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HPC indicates this legislation is compatible with its statutory mandates and in the recommendations it reported regarding HJM18 (1999).

SAOA indicates the 1999 Census Bureau Current Population Survey estimates that 25.8% of New Mexicans are uninsured compared to the national average of 15.5%; 21% of New Mexicans live in poverty compared to the national average of 11.8%; and 49.6% of New Mexicans are not covered for health insurance by their employers.

The three leading causes of death for New Mexicans are heart disease, cancer and unintentional accidents. Diabetes is also very prevalent among Hispanics and Native Americans. SJR34 would significantly impact these populations.

RAE/njw