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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE
LAST UPDATED

SPONSOR Rodriguez 2/2/07 HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Hepatitis C Program SB 218

ANALYST Leger

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$2,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 174
Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)
New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)
New Mexico Health Policy Commission (NMHPC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 218 appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the purpose of funding the hepatitis C Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO) program at UNM.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$2 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH indicates the ECHO program provides local access to hepatitis C disease management and treatment services for infected persons living in rural and underserved communities across the state. ECHO provides clinical consult services and intensive training to rural primary care physicians utilizing telehealth technology. Medical specialists at UNM/ Health Sciences Center (HSC) provide expertise and co-manage care of hepatitis C patients with the rural-based primary care physician.

As per DOH, it is estimated as many as 28,000 people are infected with hepatitis C in New Mexico. Hepatitis C is an infection of the liver, which can ultimately cause liver failure or liver cancer. Those infected with hepatitis C typically pursue care after this disease has progressed which may ultimately increase the cost of care. The appropriation included in SB 218 would support the mission of ECHO by providing care in rural and underserved communities.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB 218 relates to \$1.6 million for UNM/HSC ECHO in the base budget of the Department of Health.

SB 218 also relates to HB 174 which appropriates \$1.6 million to DOH for the ECHO program.

JL/nt