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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/07

SPONSOR Cisneros LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE CYFD Adoption Photo Gallery SB 370

ANALYST Lucero

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$260.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 202  
Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 370 appropriates \$260,000 from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families Department for expenditure in FY08 for the heart gallery programs and outreach for children in foster care who are available for adoption.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of two hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$260,000) contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

This appropriation is not part of the Children, Youth and Families Department's request and is not included in the Executive recommendation of Children, Youth and Families Department.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Reduced federal funding has left CYFD without many resources for outreach. Outreach such as the Heart Gallery is important to getting children in adoptive homes.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

SB 370 would positively impact the performance measures of: “Percent of children adopted within twenty-four months from entry into foster care”.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

If passed, the bill will have a slight administrative impact on children, youth and families department that the bill does not address.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None identified.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

CYFD has been recognized nationally as the pioneer of the Heart Gallery.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

From the New Mexico Heart Gallery web page: <http://www.heartgallerynm.org/about.php>

### The History of the Heart Gallery of New Mexico

On March 29, 2001, at the suggestion of Santa Fe photographer and adoptive mother Cathy Maier Callanan, the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) brought the expression "a picture is worth a thousand words" to life at the nation's first Heart Gallery exhibit. The reception at Santa Fe's Gerald Peters Gallery drew a crowd of people inspired by stirring portraits of children in CYFD custody who were dreaming of finding their "forever families." The portraits were created and donated by some of the region's most talented photographers.

Since then, the annual Heart Gallery of New Mexico has found homes for many children who were considered "hard to place" due to their age or the fact that they were members of a sibling group. One of the happiest endings came in June 2005, when a very special portrait inspired one couple to adopt five teenaged siblings. Two photographers even "clicked with" and adopted their charming subjects.

Thanks to media coverage and technical support from CYFD, the Heart Gallery spread to several other states. In January 2005, a Parade article about the project by Santa Fe reporter Rosemary Zibart touched the hearts of millions of readers, resulting in a virtual explosion of Heart Gallery groups across America, where 118,000 foster children are waiting to be adopted. Later coverage included People, the Today Show, CNN, MSNBC, USA Weekend, the New York Times, ABC World News Tonight and 20/20.

Currently 42 states have held or are planning Heart Gallery openings, and the number of Heart Gallery-inspired placements in the end should number in the thousands. CYFD continues to be the conduit for the positive energy of these dedicated planners. The federal Children's Bureau's adoption initiative "The Collaboration to Adopt US Kids," has been a strong supporter of the project, and has named the Heart Gallery a "best practice." On November 1, 2005, they hosted the first National Heart Gallery exhibit at Union Station in Washington, D.C. CYFD is playing an integral role in this milestone event. Please visit [adoptuskids.org](http://adoptuskids.org) for more information on The Heart Gallery as a national movement.

**ALTERNATIVES**

None identified.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status Quo

DL/nt