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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/28/08

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Legislative Behavioral Health Caucus SJM 31

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$.01				Various

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 31 supports the creation of a bipartisan Legislative behavioral health caucus to provide a venue for Legislators to learn about important mental health issues affecting New Mexicans.

The Memorial resolves that a copy of this Memorial be transmitted to the National Alliance on Mental Illness-New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Information obtained might help Legislators make better decisions in promoting coordinated diagnosis and treatment that lower overall costs for behavioral health care.

Information obtained may also help Legislators assist businesses in lowering employee health care costs by providing information on mental health programs that have been successful in lowering absenteeism and increasing work productivity.

Costs to State agencies will be determined by how often they will be requested to provide educational opportunities for Legislators and the public relating to behavioral health.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Memorial provides for the following:

- Good mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being;
- Mental health problems can affect all areas of a person's life;
- The United States Department of Health and Human Services reports that mental health problems strike one in four Americans each year regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and
- All Americans are vulnerable to chronic mental health problems associated with trauma and can benefit greatly from early identification and treatment;
- The United States Surgeon General reports that one-third of adults and one-half of young people with mental health problems go without the help they need;
- The National Institute of Mental Health reports that mental disorders are implicated in ninety percent of the thirty thousand suicides and the six hundred fifty thousand suicide attempts in the country each year;
- The Surgeon General also estimates that untreated and mistreated mental illness costs American business, government and taxpayers approximately eighty-three billion dollars (\$83,000,000,000) annually;
- The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute ranks New Mexico fifty-first in the nation in per capita mental health spending;
- People with mental illness who are in recovery can lead full, productive lives in the community;
- A Legislative behavioral health caucus would create a venue for Legislators to learn about important mental health issues affecting the residents of New Mexico;
- A behavioral health caucus would provide Legislators an opportunity to examine the role mental health plays in every community and in every sector of government, including Medicaid, criminal justice, education and child welfare;
- Members of the behavioral health caucus would send a strong message about the priority of mental health and wellness and of finding solutions that bridge unmet needs, improve the quality and outcomes of care and improve our communities;
- A behavioral health caucus would help ensure that mental health services, including community supports, are funded at appropriate levels; and
- A behavioral health caucus would contribute to the knowledge of Legislative committees and address issues that could affect access to mental health services.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The Memorial further resolves that the Legislature and the State of New Mexico support the creation of a New Mexico Behavioral Health Caucus and encourages members of both houses and all political parties to join.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Memorial further resolves that the Behavioral Health Caucus work with various behavioral health advocacy groups to educate the Legislature and the public.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Since 2003 the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, with over 90 Members of Congress in membership, was created to discuss awareness and find solutions in a bipartisan manner on

improving mental health care and its delivery to Americans. The Congressional Mental Health Caucus works in a bipartisan manner to inform, educate, and advocate to Members of Congress and the public on a variety of mental health issues; to include

- **Reducing negativism & stigma:** Raising awareness on both mental health and mental illness and provide examples of successful treatments for leading healthy and productive lives;
- **Aiding efforts to access mental health services:** Identifying who, when, and where mental health services are offered, including Medicare and Medicaid, that can improve the lives of anyone afflicted, especially low-income families, and seniors;
- **Improving work-related productivity:** Assisting businesses to lower employee health care costs by providing information and mental health programs that have been successful in lowering absenteeism and improved work productivity; and
- **Protecting veterans:** Ensuring all men, women, and their families in any uniform returning from active duty in Afghanistan and Iraq receive access to mental health services for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other related mental health conditions anytime in the future.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Memorial does not include dates by which the Behavioral Health Caucus is to be made operational.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Legislature may miss opportunities to find solutions in a bipartisan manner on improving mental health care and its delivery to New Mexicans with behavioral health issues.

AHO/mt