

April 9, 2015

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 18

The Honorable Don L. Tripp, Speaker of the House and  
Members of the House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable Speaker Tripp and Members of the House:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return HOUSE HEALTH COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 108, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Second Legislature, First Session, 2015.

House Bill 108 seeks to mandate the creation of behavioral health investment zones in New Mexico and put in place various restrictions on how and where they should be constructed, thus micromanaging the expenditure of behavioral health resources.

That being said, the Human Services Department (HSD) has the ability to identify and create behavioral health investment zones on its own, and just today, I signed a state budget for Fiscal Year 2016 that provides \$1 million for this effort. The project will enhance our targeting of these services to the areas in our state that our behavioral health professionals deem to be in the greatest need. HSD will implement behavioral health investment zones in the coming year without the restrictive and concerning parameters included in House Bill 108.

Of additional concern, the requirement in House Bill 108 for prioritizing fund allocation based on a local match could jeopardize opportunities in areas of the state where less funding is available, as poorer areas could be hard-pressed to compete with the more affluent areas of New Mexico. As a result, House Bill 108 could unintentionally compromise efforts to allocate funds to zones based on high needs and risks, reducing access to critical services such as substance abuse treatment services, children's behavioral health services, and facility-based services. For these reasons, I hereby veto House Bill 108.

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Respectfully yours,

Susana Martinez

Governor

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Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

By \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary of State

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

By \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Clerk of the House