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# State of New Mexico

SECRETARY OF STATE

Susana Martinez  
*Governor*

April 6, 2017

## HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 48

The Honorable Brian Egolf, Jr., Speaker of the House and  
Members of the House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable Speaker Egolf 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 BILL 157, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Third Legislature, First Session, 2017.

As a former prosecutor for 25 years, I support our brave first responders who protect our safety and wellbeing without regard to their own, from law enforcement officers to emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to firefighters.

However, House Bill 157 presents a number of issues. Firefighters are already able to seek and receive disability benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) through New Mexico's workers' compensation laws. This bill could require fire departments to pay for medical costs related to a firefighter's PTSD, even if that firefighter had not developed the condition as a result of his or her time as a firefighter.

Workers' compensation law is designed to assist an employee in healing from a work-related injury so that he or she can return to work. While I believe firefighters—and all first responders who are just as exposed to traumatic events—should get treatment for PTSD, it is unfair to require employers to cover a worker's treatment for an injury not sustained at work.

This bill is well-intentioned in its goal of supporting those who serve us with everything they have. But it places too great a burden on our cities and counties by unnecessarily changing workers' compensation laws.

For these reasons, I hereby veto House Bill 157.

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The Honorable Brian Egolf, Jr.

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Page 2

Respectfully yours,



Susana Martinez  
Governor

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Time: 6:57 a.m.  p.m.  
Date: April 6th, 2017 By   
Secretary of State

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. p.m.  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017 By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House