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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/2020

SPONSOR Armstrong, D. LAST UPDATED _____ HB 41

SHORT TITLE Cancer Survivorship Services SB _____

ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$350.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House Bill 2, General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

House Bill 41 appropriates \$350 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) to provide cancer survivorship services, including community-based education, practical and emotional support services, and lodging for cancer patients.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$350 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 (FY21) shall revert to the general fund.

Both the LFC and executive budget recommendations for DOH include \$100 thousand in recurring general fund revenue for this purpose in FY21.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH reported: "Cancer is a serious public health problem in New Mexico. It is the second leading cause of death and a major source of illness and suffering. Approximately 9,500 new cases of cancer are diagnosed in New Mexico each year and it is estimated that approximately

111,620 people in the state are currently living with a diagnosis of cancer. Although cancer is a leading cause of death, cancer survival rates have been steadily increasing. As survival rates improve, the need increases for support to assist cancer patients and their families with the long-term emotional, mental, and financial consequences of diagnosis and treatment.

Emotional support services may include individual and group support led by trained facilitators. Practical support services may alleviate some of the financial burden experienced by cancer survivors by assisting with transportation and other non-medical expenses, and assistance navigating and addressing complicated cancer-related medical, legal and governmental systems. These types of support services can have positive effects on emotional adjustment, functional adjustment, and treatment- and disease-related symptoms in adult cancer patients and can diminish the sense of isolation, identify unmet needs, enhance control over events, and provide help in dealing with the healthcare system.

Emotional, educational, practical and lodging-based services in New Mexico are typically provided through “grass-root” non-profit organizations formed from the efforts of cancer survivors who want to assist others through the emotional, physical, and psychological challenges of cancer. Support service organizations are in a number of communities in New Mexico including some which provide statewide services to patients and families; however, funding is limited and cancer survivors in rural communities remain underserved. Rural cancer survivors are at greater risk for a variety of poor health outcomes, even after many years of a cancer diagnosis. The provision of services in rural communities can improve survivors’ quality of life. The funding of HB41 would allow services to be expanded in rural areas of New Mexico, which will reduce inequities of cancer support services, improve access to resources, reduce the emotional burden of cancer therapy and subsequent recovery, and improve overall patient and family education. This will result in an improved quality of life for patients and family members.”

KK/sb