

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Felix Chavez</b>
-----------------------	---------------------

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**

**[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov)**

*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

**Date Prepared:** March 4, 2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** HB 516 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Herndon **Agency Name and Code Number:** AOC 218  
**Short Title:** Domestic Violence Service Gaps Study **Person Writing:** Celina Jones  
**Phone:** 505-470.3214 **Email:** aoccaj@nmcourts.gov

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		100.				GF

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: HM 34  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: HB 516 appropriates \$100,000 to the Supreme Court to create a task force to study both best practices and gaps in legal services for domestic violence victims. This task force may recommend designing and implementing cost-effective legal programs to incorporate proven legal services programs and address service gaps.

The statewide task force will be composed of a diverse group that includes members from the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence, New Mexico Legal Aid, the Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, Enlace Comunitario, the University of New Mexico School of Law, the house of representatives, the senate, and representatives from rural areas. The related memorial, HM 34, requires the task force to submit a report on findings and recommendations to address issues with justice, the courts, and the corrections department.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Administering the task force will likely involve both administrative costs, including travel, and staff and contract costs related to facilitation, developing caseload statistics, and research regarding available academic studies and legal services programs in other states.

HB 516 appropriates \$100,000 “...to the supreme court for expenditure in fiscal year 2026 to convene a task force to study the gaps in legal services for victims of domestic violence and to make recommendations for the design and implementation of cost-effective legal programs to address those gaps.”

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

A gap analysis of local resources is essential to identify crucial areas where current services, policies, and interventions are lacking. The needs of victims include fundamental needs, presenting needs, or accompanying needs. Addressing gaps in local resources will sustain the frontlines for victims, assist individuals in restoring harm, improve overall well-being, and satisfy victim needs. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority states: “By addressing accompanying needs (e.g., child care, transportation), providers reduce barriers to service utilization for victims and enable victims to progress towards fulfilling other higher-level needs (i.e., love, esteem, and self-actualization)”

See more at: <https://icjia.illinois.gov/researchhub/articles/victim-need-report-service-providers-perspectives-on-the-needs-of-crime-victims-and-service-gaps/>

Regular gap analysis can help assess the effectiveness of existing programs and identify areas for improvement, promoting accountability and continuous quality improvement. It can also draw attention to the prevalence and severity of domestic violence, raising awareness about the issue and encouraging support for prevention efforts.

Collecting statewide statistics and data about domestic violence caseloads is essential to this effort. Statistics will assist the task force in identifying hotspots and communities with higher rates of domestic violence, and will also assist with an effort to recommend reallocation of

resources and crafting effective policies. Data provides evidence-based information to evaluate the impact of current resources and assess where they are most needed.

The United Nations organization UN Women states: “Data collection from monitoring the domestic violence law is essential for informing the work and approach of the authorities when it comes to preventing and responding to violence against women. In particular, it creates better coordination by identifying and improving practices not in compliance with national legislation and international standards, as well as identifying good practices that can be shared with authorities at local and central levels. Monitoring data is used to design new policies to protect and support victims, such as social services, health-care services, social welfare, legal services and other specialized services. Systematic data collection, which is done on a regular and long-term basis, serves as a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies whether they are working towards preventing and combating domestic violence.”

See more at: <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/stories/interview/2022/06/interview-data-collection-is-essential-for-informing-work-to-end-violence-against-women#:~:text=Data%20enables%20us%20to%20assess,their%20cases%20and%20access%20services.>

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

## **ALTERNATIVES**

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

## **AMENDMENTS**