

Armijo, Alicia, HED

From: Hickey, Martin <Martin.Hickey@nmlegis.gov>
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To: Info, HigherEd, HED
Subject: Comments on

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Proposed repeal and replacement of **5.7.3 NMAC, NEW MEXICO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (HRLRP)**

Fron Senator martin Hickey, MD, District 20

Senator Martin hickey worked closely with Representative Chandler and Senator Figueroa to construct HB 66 and authored SB 14, essentially a parallel version.

Comment 1. 5.7.3.7 .F in Definitions: The intention of the sponsors of both bills was to be sure that the definition of “Health Professional Shortage Area have “Area” be defined not only as a geographic location, but also as specialties of medical practice. There are major shortages of general surgeons, and other subspecialties of surgeons such as ENT, Ophthalmology, urology, etc.; Internal Medicine subspecialties such as Neurology, Endocrinology, infectious diseases, etc.; and Pediatric subspecialties such as pediatric surgeons, ophthalmologists, endocrinologists, etc.; and OB-GYNs such as perinatologists, etc. Equal prioritization should be given to both geographic area and specialty area which also includes Primary Care – Internal medicine, OB-GYN, and Pediatrics. Anywhere the bill states shortage area, medical specialties should have equal wait in prioritization that geographic area and Primary Care have.

Comment 2. 5.7.3.9.B should be clarified that proof of licensure or certification in the state of New Mexico to practice their profession will only come once the applicant has been chosen, moves here from another state and THEN has been licensed by the state. They should not be restricted to current actual licensure since the vast majority of applicants will be finishing their residencies in other states. Having them licensed at the time of application would require them to apply for a license before residency completion and will cost \$700. Thus this will be a major deterrent to applying, particularly if not chosen but potentially receiving a loan repayment program from another state. This is critical to clarify as the applicant pool will substantially shrink perhaps losing medical student of UNM who are doing residency in other states. Also a quality limiter.

Thank you,

Martin Hickey, MD
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