



## Doctor of the Day

Thanks to Dr. Heather Applewhite who volunteered as Doctor of the Day this week.

If you're interested in volunteering as Doctor of the Day, please click [NMAFP Calendly](#) to sign up.

## Legislation Related to NMAFP Priorities

(Click [here](#) to see priorities from February 1<sup>st</sup> Update)

### Recruit and Retain Physicians:

#### **HB 15: Healthcare Strategic Recruitment Program (Rep. Marianna Anaya)**

**Action:** Do Pass in House Health and Human Services Committee on February 5<sup>th</sup>

**Current Assignment:** House Appropriations and Finance Committee

This bill would appropriate \$2 million to the Workforce Solutions Department to create a healthcare strategic recruitment program designed to recruit persons who have graduated within the last 10 years with a degree or certificate in a healthcare profession from a post-secondary institution in New Mexico but are not currently working in healthcare in New Mexico. Click [here](#) to see the bill's Fiscal Impact Report.

#### **HB 243: Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Rep. Marian Mathews)**

**Action:** Do Pass in House Health and Human Services Committee on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Current Assignment:** House Judiciary Committee

According to the bill's [HB243 FIR](#), this bill "enacts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact in New Mexico, allowing physicians to apply for an expedited medical license in multiple states that are members of the compact."

#### **SB 172: Immigrant Healthcare Workforce Development (Sen. Linda Trujillo)**

**Current Assignment:** Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee

This bill would create the Immigrant Healthcare Workforce Development Act with the task to create an accelerated immigrant primary care physician readiness pathway. Click [here](#) to see the bill's FIR.

**SB 46: Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Sen. Linda Trujillo)**

**Current Assignment:** Senate Health and public Affairs Committee

According to the bill's Fiscal Impact Report ([SB46 FIR](#)) "Senate Bill 46 enables New Mexico to join an interstate medical licensing compact, adopting its rules and bylaws. This would increase allopathic or osteopathic physicians' ability to achieve an expedited license to practice in New Mexico if they already held a license in another compact state."

**Medical Malpractice Reform:**

**SB 176: Medical Malpractice Changes (Sen. Martin Hickey)**

**Current Assignment:** Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee

This bill would make changes to the Medical Malpractice Act. The proposed changes are to:

- Require payments from the Patient's Compensation Fund to be made as expenses are incurred,
- Require 75% of the punitive damages awarded in a medical malpractice claim to be awarded to the State,
- Limit attorney fees in malpractice claims,
- Create a Patient Safety Improvement Fund

**SB 224: Superintendent of Insurance and Medical Malpractice (Sen. Linda Trujillo)**

**Current Assignment:** Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee

This bill would allow the Superintendent of Insurance to intervene in mediation and court proceedings that involve the Medical Malpractice Act. Click [here](#) to see the bill's FIR.

**Pharmaceutical Cost Containment:**

**HB 78: Prohibit Discrimination Against 340B Entities (Rep. Elizabeth Thompson)**

**Action:** Do Pass in House Health and Human Services Committee February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Current Assignment:** House Judiciary Committee

According to the bill's ([HB78 FIR](#)), House Bill 78 "proposes changes to the insurance code to prevent insurance companies from interfering with 340B-covered entities' ability to acquire, deliver or dispense medication under the federal 340B program..."

## **Gross Receipts Tax and Medicaid Reimbursement**

### **HB 141: The General Appropriations Act of 2025**

In its current form, HB 141 has roughly \$8.8 million in additional funding for Medicaid to continue the provider rate increase adjustments. (See page 90 of HB 141 lines 20-23) We will monitor any changes to this amount.

## **Other Health-Related Legislation**

### **SB 1: Behavioral Health Trust Fund (Sen. George Munoz)**

**Action:** Do Pass in Senate Finance Committee on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Passed a Senate Floor vote 37-5 on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Assignment:** House Appropriations and Finance Committee.

According to the bill's **(SB1 FIR)**, this bill "appropriates \$1 billion from the general fund to a newly created behavioral health trust fund.... The program fund will be administered by Health Care Authority (HCA), subject to appropriation by the Legislature, to provide money for services and programs related to behavioral health."

### **SB 2: Public Health and Safety Initiatives (Sen. Benny Shendo)**

**Action:** Do Pass in Senate Finance Committee on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Passed a Senate Floor vote 37-4 on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Assignment:** House Appropriations and Finance Committee

According to the bill's FIR, SB 2 "appropriates \$140 million from the general fund to the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Health Care Authority, the Corrections Department, the Department of Public Safety, the University of New Mexico, the Department of Health, and the Department of Finance and Administration for the purpose of providing appropriations linked to the activities in the propose Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (Senate Bill 3)." Click [here](#) to see SB2 FIR

### **SB 3: Behavioral Health Reform & Investment Act (Sens. Peter Wirth/Mimi Stewart)**

**Action:** Do Pass in Senate Finance Committee on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Passed a Senate Floor vote 37-5 on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Assignment:** House Health and Human Services Committee

According to **(SB3 FIR)**, this bill "directs the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to designate behavioral health regions, coordinate regional meetings, complete sequential intercept resource mapping detailing how individuals come into contact and move through the criminal justice system, and coordinate the development of regional behavioral health plans."

**SB 14: Healthcare Consolidation and Transparency Act (Sen. Katy Duhigg)**

**Action:** A Committee Substitute for SB 14 was referred out of Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee “Without Recommendation” to Senate Judiciary Committee on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Assignment:** Senate Judiciary Committee

According to the bill’s FIR, “Senate Bill 14 ([SB14 FIR](#)) creates a process that allows the Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI) to review proposed transactions (e.g., acquisitions, mergers) that materially change the control of a New Mexico healthcare entity and could negatively impact the availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality of care for New Mexicans.”

**HB 189: Chiropractic Licensing Changes (Rep. Dayan Hochman-Vigil)**

**Action:** This bill was withdrawn indefinitely by the sponsor on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

This bill would amend the Chiropractic Physician Practice Act to allow, after additional education requirements, level one and level two advanced practice chiropractic physicians to prescribe, administer, or dispense dangerous drugs, including Schedule II through V controlled substances. Click [here](#) to see HB 189 FIR