

Legislative Update February 2, 2019
Steve Lucero, NMAFP Lobbyist

The legislature continues to consider legislation at record pace. So far, 1014 bills and memorials have been introduced and 25 Senate bills and 16 house bills are sitting on the Governor's desk awaiting signatures. Many of these bills, included in the so called "rocket docket", were passed in previous legislatures but either vetoed or pocket vetoed by the previous governor.

Last week the Medicaid Buy-In Act legislation was introduced in both the House and the Senate. **House Bill 416** and **Senate Bill 405** are identical and begin their journeys in their respective houses. **Senate Bill 405** waits for its first hearing in Senate Public Affairs Committee and **House Bill 5416** version sits in the House Health and Human Services Committee. The purpose of the Medicaid Buy-In Act is to establish a state public option through Medicaid. The goal would be to establish this medical insurance public option by January 1, 2021.

HB 51 Decriminalize Abortion (Reps. Joanne Ferrary, Georgene Louis) (Sen. Linda Lopez)

This bill received a **Do Pass** in House Judiciary Committee on Friday February 1st. It now sits on the House Floor Temporary Calendar waiting for House a debate and vote.

This substitute bill would repeal NM laws that criminalize abortion; *Sections 30-5-1 through 30-5-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 67, Sections 1 through 3)*. The NMAFP supports this bill because it would rescind an outdated bill that was never enforced and was designed to interfere in the practice of medicine.

HB 89 Health Coverage for Contraception (Rep. Deborah Armstrong)

This bill received a **Do Pass** in House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee on January 22nd. It is scheduled for a hearing in House Health and Human Services Committee on Monday February 4th.

This bill would require health plans to cover medications and clinical services related to contraceptive health.

HB 8 Background Check for Fire Arm Sales (Reps. Sarinana, Roybal-Caballero, Garratt, Figueroa)

This bill received a **Do Pass** on January 24th in House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee and is scheduled for a hearing in House Judiciary Committee on Monday February 4th. The Senate version of this bill **SB 8 (Senators Richard Martinez and Peter Wirth)** completed its committee hearings and is on the Senate Floor calendar awaiting debate and vote.

The bill would require federal instant background checks on sales of firearms.

HB 90 Elizabeth Whitfield End of Life Options Act (Rep. Deborah Armstrong)

HB 90 received a **Do Pass** on Monday January 28th in House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill was amended in committee to define "terminal illness" as death within "six months" and that a patient must be examined in person and not via telemedicine. The bill is referred to House Judiciary Committee.

This bill creates an Act to establish rights, procedures and protections relating to medical aid in dying. It removes criminal liability for providing assistance pursuant to the Elizabeth Whitfield End of Life Options Act. The Act requires a health care provider to determine that a patient has capacity, a terminal illness, voluntarily made the request for medical aid in dying, and the ability to self-administer the medical aid in dying medication.