

Legislative Update January 25, 2020
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As expected the legislature made quick work of **HB 1 Feed Bill (Rep. Willams-Stapleton)** signed by the Governor on Thursday January 23rd. This bill funds the work of the legislature during the session. It unanimously passed both houses.

There's also been early movement on bills of interest to the NMAFP related to pharmaceutical costs and early childhood education. They're listed below.

SB 1 Wholesale Prescription Drug Deportation Act (Sen. Mary Kay Papen)

This bill received a **Do Pass** in Senate Public Affairs Committee on Thursday January 23rd and is sent to Senate Finance Committee.

The bill would create the Office of Wholesale Drug Importation at the Department of Health to develop, plan, apply for, and negotiate with the federal government for approval of a Canadian wholesale drug importation plan, ensuring drug safety and significantly reducing drug costs.

Please see the attached Fiscal Impact Report for a synopsis of the bill.

There was lukewarm bi-partisan support from the Republican side. All Republicans voted yes but cautioned they had concerns about the cost of implementation and provisions for safety. They may change their mind on the bill if these concerns are not addressed as the bill moves forward.

Those in support of the bill addressed the rising cost of medications and the challenges it creates for patients to comply with treatment.

Concern from the opposition involved the safety of medications being imported and that the bill should have stronger safety measures. In addition to safety, the opposition was concerned about immunity for the manufacturer if the consumer is harmed by a counterfeit being sold as a legitimately manufactured medication. Lastly, there was concern about the cost of implementation of program and where the cost savings will be; such as safety, labeling, and the supply chain. The opposition is committed to continue working with sponsors to establish common ground on the bill.

HJR 1 Permanent Funds for Early Childhood, CA (Rep. Antonio Maestas)

HJR 1 received a **Do Pass** in House Commerce and Economic Development Committee on Friday January 24th and is sent to House Education Committee. The vote was 7 to 4 along party lines with the Democrats voting in favor.

This Joint Resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to allow for distribution from the Permanent School Fund of 1% for Early Childhood Education Services. The amendment must be approved by the voters of New Mexico.

Public comment in favor of the resolution stressed that early childhood education is the investment with the highest return and that the state needs to catch up to the brain science supporting early interventions. Family physicians prioritize early childhood education. Child care is expensive and hurts productivity of the economy. Early childhood education breaks the cycle of poverty and educational attainment is higher for those who accessed early childhood education

One public comment in opposition was concerned that growth of the land grant permanent fund may be compromised if additional distributions are made.