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For Immediate Release

House Judiciary Committee Approves Funding for a State-of-the-Art Substance Abuse Treatment and Training Facility

Los Lunas Facility is Part of Governor Bill Richardson's Agenda to Combat Substance Abuse, including Methamphetamine, in New Mexico

Santa Fe, February 1, 2007 – The House Judiciary Committee has passed legislation that would fund a state-of-the-art substance abuse treatment and training facility in Los Lunas.

House Bill (HB) 514 - Los Lunas Substance Abuse Facility, co-sponsored by Representatives Andrew Barreras and Elias Barela, appropriates \$2 million to fund the operations of the treatment and training facility, currently the former Department of Health State Hospital in Los Lunas. Services available through this new program will include:

- 16-28 residential beds,
- Community-based and outpatient services,
- Telehealth capacity to support smaller communities through consultation and distance learning, and
- Other training and support for the treatment and law enforcement workforce throughout New Mexico who are dealing with substance abusers in courts, on the streets and in treatment programs.

The facility will serve people across New Mexico with a special focus on the central part of the state, and will be the centerpiece for substance abuse treatment and law enforcement training efforts.

“This facility will not only help New Mexicans in need of treatment for alcohol or other substance abuse problems, such as the increasing use of methamphetamines, it will also serve as a great opportunity for the law enforcement workforce to train on this growing problem in our state,” said Linda Roebuck, Behavioral Health Collaborative CEO and Behavioral Health Czar.

During Fiscal Year 2006, 4,054 people were treated for substance abuse through Behavioral Health Collaborative funding, and already this fiscal year 2,559 have been treated.

The Los Lunas Substance Abuse Treatment and Training Facility will be a public/private partnership, with a panel of local and national experts participating in planning the program. An additional \$7 million is requested in the Executive budget to help repair and remodel the facility, which has been unoccupied for 10 years.

HB 514 now heads to the House Appropriations and Finance Committee.

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