

indigent legal services. Now the 104th and 105th Congresses and the President have reduced funding without significantly modifying the federal program. This action by Congress is akin to an unfunded federal mandate and I oppose *unfunded* federal mandates.

Finally, there may be viable alternatives to the provision of indigent civil legal services for the advocates of such legislation to pursue in the future. First, proponents could petition Congress to restore the levels of funding for this federal program. Second, the proponents could petition the New Mexico Bar Association and New Mexico Supreme Court to fully implement or revise the pro bono requirements and target such pro bono efforts at indigent civil legal services.

According to a survey in the New Mexico Bar Journal only twenty-one per cent (21%) of New Mexico attorneys provide pro bono services. Moreover, the bar association could increase their annual fees or establish a special voluntary check-off fund to raise money to pay for indigent legal services.

S 268 CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORITY

April 11, 1997

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 58

I have this day VETOED and am returning SENATE BILL 268 enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

This legislation increases the filing fee charged by the Department of Insurance for HMO certificates of authority. While this would provide additional revenue, it does not appear that the Department of Insurance needs additional money to carry out its function in this area. Furthermore, increased fees may have the potential of limiting access to this market place for smaller companies.

S 274 EDUCATION BOARDS ELECTIONS

April 10, 1997

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 47

I have this day VETOED and am returning SENATE BILL 274, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

This legislation would have changed the date for school board and community college elections