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OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez
Governor

March 7, 2018

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 94

The Honorable Mary Kay Papen, President Pro Tempore and
Members of the New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable President Pro Tempore Papen and Members of the Senate:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return SENATE BILL 192, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Third Legislature, Second Session, 2018.

Throughout my tenure as governor, I have prioritized the protection and well-being of New Mexico's most vulnerable citizens. We have seen our state's senior care services improve dramatically as the result of targeted investments and my administration's commitment to keeping the cost of care down. I have fought to ensure that our elderly receive the highest quality care and are protected from financial exploitation and abuse.

However, I cannot support SB 192. This new bed tax is an additional burden on all patients in nursing homes. Although the advocates for this bed tax claim it will not be passed along to the patients, that claim is simply not true. The costs of this tax will be passed along to private pay patients as there is no other way for facilities to recover this added expense. Additionally, SB 192 would cost the state millions of dollars to administer because a new tax program would be needed to implement and monitor this tax increase. Furthermore, the cost of care for our elderly citizens would likely rise, which could make senior services and care less accessible. The benefits that this bill seeks to achieve, albeit limited, would not be realized for several years, despite imposing a bed tax on New Mexicans now. This would leave our senior citizens vulnerable and at risk of not being able to receive the care they need.

For these reasons, I hereby veto SB 192.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susana Martinez".

Susana Martinez
Governor

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The Honorable Mary Kay Papen
March 7, 2018
Page 2

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: 9:47 a.m. p.m.
Date: March 7th, 2018

By *Ann Carls*
Secretary of State

Time: 10:40 a.m. p.m.
Date: 3-7, 2018

By *Sharon M. Varney*
Chief Clerk of the Senate