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State of New Mexico

OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

April 9, 2021

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 19

The Honorable Brian Egolf, Jr., Speaker of the House and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Speaker Egolf and Members of the House:

I have decided to veto HOUSE BILL 240, as amended ("HB 240"), which would have amended the definitions in the Hospital Funding Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 4-48B-1 to -29, to allow mill levy funding to be used to operate an emergency health care facility in qualifying counties. Currently, the only county that would qualify is Valencia County. While health care facilities are needed in our state, the funds described in HB 240 were part of a property tax previously approved by Valencia County voters with the understanding that the funds would be used for specific projects. To now use the mill levy funding for a purpose that was not presented during the election would abuse our democratic process and render the community's decision as irrelevant. The decision about how the mill levy funds will be used must be made by the voters.

For these reasons, and pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have vetoed HOUSE BILL 240, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Fifth Legislature, First Session.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham".

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: 10:00 a.m. p.m.

Date: April 9 2021

By [Signature]
For Secretary of State

Time: 10:52 a.m. p.m.

Date: April 9 2021

By [Signature]
Chief Clerk of the House