



State of New Mexico

REC'D - COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 10 2026 10:54 AM

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

March 6, 2026

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 89

The Honorable Javier Martinez, Speaker of the House and
Members of the New Mexico House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Speaker Martinez and Members of the House:

Pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have signed HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 66, as amended ("HB 66"), enacted by the Fifty-Seventh Legislature, Second Session, 2026. HB 66 makes important changes to the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program, best situating New Mexico to attract physicians and other medical professionals to our State. HB 66, along with our reforms to the Medical Malpractice Act and adoption of medical compacts, reaffirms that our State is *the* place for medical professionals.

However, I would be remiss to not mention that this bill will cause unnecessary obstacles for the administration of the loan repayment program—issues raised by the Higher Education Department many times during the legislative session but that were left unaddressed. HB 66 will leave dollars on the table by restricting half of the program's funding solely for physicians, which will pit physician applicants against all the other medical professionals we need—dentists, nurses, allied health professionals, and all other non-physicians that want to remove the shackles of burdensome student loan debt and establish the Land of Enchantment as their home.

We need doctors today, but tomorrow we need the entire system of medical professionals; doctors rarely practice alone and need these professionals to support their practices and their patients. I have no doubt that the Higher Education Department will be unable to fully spend the appropriated funds because of this unnecessary restriction. The Legislature will have to address this issue during the next legislative session so that the Higher Education Department can be nimble and adapt to emerging workforce needs before they become a crisis, attracting the right professionals at the right time.

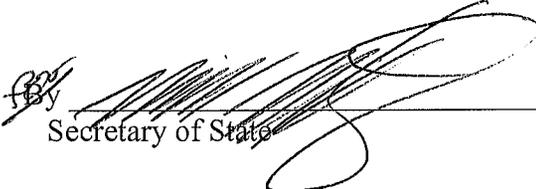
Respectfully yours,

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: 2:00 a.m. p.m.
Date: 3/6 2026

By 
Secretary of State

Time: 2:28 a.m. p.m.
Date: March 6 2026

By *Liam O'Donoghue*
Chief Clerk of the House