



The New Mexico Public Health Association endorses the legislative proposals described below for the 2011 legislative session.

The first group, Tier 1, is NMPHA's high priority legislation, meaning that NMPHA will actively support these proposals, to the extent possible with our volunteer efforts.

The second group, Tier 2, receives NMPHA endorsement, but NMPHA will take a less active role in these proposals.

Tier 1:

- The Senate Joint Resolution proposing a constitutional amendment stating that "Health care is an essential safeguard of human life and dignity, and there is an obligation for the State to ensure that every resident is able to realize this fundamental right." This proposal is from Senator Ortiz y Pino.
- The proposal to implement a permanent increase in state alcohol excise taxes and to expand the local county option to Bernalillo County to allow for an increase in alcohol taxes. The proponent of this bill is Albuquerque Partnership.
- The proposal to equalize the excise tax rate on non-cigarette tobacco products with the state's current cigarette tax rate. (This proposal was still in the planning/discussion phase when submitted to NMPHA, but had been presented to interim committees.) American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is the proponent of this legislation.
- Revenue generation via an excise tax on sweetened beverages to support critical public health infrastructure that promotes obesity prevention, such as county health councils, after-school programs, school nurse, quality physical activity in schools, Farm to School programs and more. (This proposal was still in the planning/discussion phase when submitted to NMPHA.) The proponent is New Mexico Healthier Weight Council.
- The proposal to add Dental Therapists as a dental provider under the NM Dental Practice Act. Improves access to dental services and the health of rural, tribal and underserved New Mexicans. NM would be eligible for a 2011, \$4 million federal grant for the training and employment of dental therapists who practice in rural and underserved communities. Answers NM rural and low-income communities' call for dental therapists for their communities and healthcare career opportunities for their citizens. The proponent of this legislation is Health Action New Mexico.
- A Joint Memorial (HJM012) requesting the Department of Health and the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, School of Nursing and Health Sciences Center to collaborate with New Mexico Managed Care Organizations to review public health objectives and needs for New Mexico and develop recommendations.

Tier 2:

- Efforts to maintain full funding and/or develop progressive revenue enhancements for the Medicaid program and Developmental Delay and Disability services. (This proposal was still in the planning/discussion phase when submitted to NMPHA.) The proponent is Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers.
- The effort to maintain funding for school-based health care. (There is no specific legislation attached to this proposal. The effort entails education of legislators.) The proponent is the New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care.
- Establish a Family Friendly Policies and Practices Task Force to report to the legislature on such issues as paid sick leave, parent involvement leave, telecommuting, job share, wellness programs, breastfeeding support and childcare. The proponent is HM35 Task Force.

- Proposal to establish a task force to design an Accountable Care Organization in Hidalgo County. The proponent is Hidalgo Medical Services.
- Consolidated Environmental Review Act, to require over-arching environmental reviews as a part of the permitting process for projects having significant environmental impacts. Proponent is Mountain View Community Action.
- A “Complete Streets” proposal. This would support reallocation of Department of Transportation funds to create and/or improve incorporation of physical activity in daily life: bike lanes, walkability, safe routes to school, access to public transportation, etc. (This proposal was still in the planning/discussion phase when submitted to NMPHA.) The proponent is New Mexico Healthier Weight Council.
- A proposal to incentivize the creation of smaller public schools [defined as no more than 400 students for elementary and middle schools and no more than 900 students for high schools] and to prioritize renovation projects designed to break up existing larger schools into smaller learning communities or smaller schools within schools. The proponent is Think New Mexico.
- The Clean Air on Campus Act, which would prohibit smoking on all public post-secondary educational institution campuses.
- The New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange Act, which would create a strong and active health insurance exchange in New Mexico. The proponent is Health Action New Mexico.
- A bill requiring that all reproductive health information provided by a limited service pregnancy center, whether oral written, be medically and scientifically accurate. The proponent of this bill is the New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.
- A bill permitting biomedical research on limited categories of human embryonic stem cells; prohibiting human cloning; imposing penalties; amending the maternal, fetal and infant experimentation act. The proponent of this bill is the New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.