



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS *for the* 2011 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE

presented at the

7th Annual Health Policy Legislative Forum

Wednesday, December 1, 2010
Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel
Albuquerque, NM

sponsored by

New Mexico Public Health Association

with support from

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy
Con Alma Health Foundation
McCune Charitable Foundation
Santa Fe Community Foundation
The Albuquerque Partnership
Health Action New Mexico
New Mexico Voices for Children
New Mexico Health Equity Working Group
Project HOPE
University of New Mexico Masters of Public Health Program
YMCA of Central New Mexico
Youth Development, Inc.



New Mexico
Public Health Association

“Promoting the health and well-being of all New Mexico”



List of Contents

Albuquerque Partnership -- page 1

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network -- page 2

Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers (ADDCP) -- page 3

Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center at the Institute of Public Law, University of New Mexico School of Law -- page 4

HM35 Taskforce -- page 5

Health Action New Mexico -- page 6

Health Care for All Coalition -- page 7

Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign -- page 8

Hidalgo Medical Services -- page 9

Mountain View Community Action -- page 10

My Community NM -- page 11

NM Alliance for School-Based Health Care -- page 12

NM Healthier Weight Council -- page 13

NM Healthier Weight Council -- page 14

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty -- page 15

New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice -- page 16

State Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino (district 12) -- page 17

Think New Mexico -- page 18

**Sponsoring organization:**

Albuquerque Partnership

Brief description of proposal:

Increasing alcohol tax revenue is a viable solution to the budget crisis in New Mexico. We encourage our state legislature to consider a permanent increase of state alcohol excise taxes and to expand the local county option to Bernalillo County to allow for an increase in alcohol taxes.

Background:

\$97 million was collected in tax revenue in 2006 from alcohol sales, but the state paid an estimated \$2.5 billion for costs associated with excessive alcohol use. Even a small increase in alcohol taxes will reduce the problems associated with alcohol related illness and injury and generate as much as \$20 million in revenue with a 10-cent increase. Direct evidence indicates that a tax increase results in a reduction in drinking and alcohol-related mortality, while providing needed revenue to pay for societal costs related to alcohol consumption such as motor vehicle crashes, costs to criminal justice system and social welfare costs. Raising alcohol taxes is an effective policy measure that will decrease harmful alcohol consumption and raise significant revenue.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Bill drafted

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

No

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

NM Health Equity Working Group

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

Provide lobbying support if possible

Who is the contact for more information?

Contact name: Adrian Pedroza, Executive Director

Contact Organization: Albuquerque Partnership

Contact Phone: 505-247-9222

Contact E-Mail: adrianp@abqpartnership.org

Contact Website: www.abqpartnership.org

**Sponsoring organization:**

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Brief description of proposal:

We aim to equalize the excise tax rate on non-cigarette tobacco products with the state's current cigarette tax rate. Removing this tax loophole will increase the state's annual revenues by up to \$6.8 million per year while reducing youth and adult consumption of these dangerous and highly addictive products.

Background:

New Mexico youth and adult consumption of non-cigarette tobacco products (e.g. smokeless tobacco and cigars) is on the increase. A big reason for this negative trend is the low tax rate on these products compared to the current New Mexico cigarette tax rate. The CDC recommends increasing taxes (and consequently, prices) on cigarettes as an effective strategy to deter youth consumption. Increases in the number of individuals who engage in "dual use" (cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, for example) serve to undermine tobacco control objectives and will negatively impact health outcomes for the state long-term.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Still in the planning/discussion phase
Presented to interim committees

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Sandy Adondakis, New Mexico Government Relations Director (American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network)

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

To be determined

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists
Sign on to endorsement letters
Provide lobbying support if possible

Who is the contact for more information?

Contact name: Sandy Adondakis
Contact Organization: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Contact Phone: 505.262.6019
Contact E-Mail: sandra.adondakis@cancer.org
Contact Website: www.acscan.org/newmexico



Sponsoring organization:

Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers (ADDCP)

Brief description of proposal:

Maintain Funding -- Full funding for the Medicaid program and Developmental Delay and Disability services must be maintained to continue the provision of necessary, quality service options to New Mexico's most vulnerable citizens.

Revenues -- Support for progressive revenue enhancements that will be utilized to maintain the Developmental Delay and Disability service systems and the Medicaid program.

Background:

ADDCP Members and Staff express our sincere appreciation to all Members of the New Mexico Legislature for your continued support and advocacy for our Developmental Delay and Developmental Disability agencies that provide quality services in your communities!

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Still in the planning/discussion phase

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Anna Otero Hatanaka, Executive Director, Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

N/A

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

No additional support needed at this time

Who is the contact for more information?

<i>Contact name:</i>	Anna Otero Hatanaka, Executive Director
<i>Contact Organization:</i>	Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers (ADDCP)
<i>Contact Phone:</i>	505.232.2238
<i>Contact E-Mail:</i>	addcp@msn.com
<i>Contact Website:</i>	www.addcp.org

**Sponsoring organization:**

Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center at the Institute of Public Law, University of New Mexico School of Law

Brief description of proposal:

The proposed legislation will create a Child Protection Education fee to fund education, training, technical assistance and the development of reference materials on child abuse, child neglect, delinquency, and related disciplines, for the professionals and volunteers who work in NM's child welfare and juvenile justice legal systems. The \$1 fee will be collected from anyone convicted of a misdemeanor, petty misdemeanor, violation of the Motor Vehicle Code, or violation of an ordinance punishable by imprisonment.

Background:

Since 1997, the Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center has provided the training and resources needed to increase the knowledge and improve the skills of the judges, lawyers, social workers, and other professionals and volunteers in NM's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Since 2008, the Center has lost 40% of its appropriated funding, requiring reductions in much-needed services and personnel. The Child Protection Education fee will restore the Center's funding, thereby assuring the continued provision of high-quality, multi-disciplinary, collaborative cross-training that is essential to improving outcomes for children and families.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Have sponsor: Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino

Other: Legislative Council Service is currently drafting the bill.

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

The Institute of Public Law will testify on behalf of the bill.

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

No formal agreements have been reached. We anticipate that a number of organizations will support this legislation.

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

Provide lobbying support if possible

Who is the contact for more information?

Contact name: Paul Biderman, Director

Contact Organization: Institute of Public Law

Contact Phone: 505.277.8789

Contact E-Mail: biderman@unm.edu

Contact Website: <http://ipl.unm.edu> (Institute of Public Law) and <http://ipl.unm.edu/childlaw/> (Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center)



Sponsoring organization:

HM35 Taskforce

Brief description of proposal:

Establish a Family Friendly Policies and Practices Task Force to report to the legislature on issues such as paid sick leave, parent involvement leave, telecommuting, job share, wellness programs, breastfeeding support, and childcare.

Background:

This is a recommendation from the HM35 2010 Task Force Report on Economic Security for the Health of Women and Families convened by the Council on Women's Health.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Presented to interim committees
Bill drafted

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Giovanna Rossi

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

Members of the task force: Women's Health Services, Southwest Creations Collaborative, NM Women's Agenda, Prosperity works, WESST

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists
Sign on to endorsement letters

Who is the contact for more information?

<i>Contact name:</i>	Giovanna Rossi
<i>Contact Organization:</i>	Collective Action Strategies, LLC
<i>Contact Phone:</i>	505-620-6030
<i>Contact E-Mail:</i>	giovanna@collectiveactionstrategies.com
<i>Contact Website:</i>	www.collectiveactionstrategies.com



Sponsoring organization:

Health Action New Mexico

Brief description of proposal:

Adds 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.

Background:

Access to dental providers: a health crisis for rural and tribal New Mexicans. New Mexico is 49th in U.S. in number of dentists/1,000 people, 69% in NM metropolitan areas. Thousands of New Mexicans do not have access or must wait for months for care. Result: Living in pain, missed school/work, medical emergencies, long-term health problems.

Solution: Dental therapists, dental providers who under the general supervision of dentists provide safe, high-quality, cost-effective dental services to rural and tribal communities in over 50 countries, Alaska and Minnesota. Highly trained provider who expands reach of dentists to underserved areas.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Still in the planning/discussion phase

Other: Selecting legislation sponsor

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Health Action New Mexico

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

New Mexico Health Resources, New Mexico Voices for Children

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

Provide lobbying support if possible

Who is the contact for more information?

Contact name: Pamela K. Blackwell, JD - Project Director, Oral Health Access

Contact Organization: Health Action New Mexico

Contact Phone: 505.508.2768

Contact E-Mail: pamelakblackwell@gmail.com

Contact Website: www.healthactionnm.org

**Sponsoring organization:**

Health Care for All Coalition

Brief description of proposal:

The New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange Act (NMHIE) would create a strong and active health insurance exchange (HIE) in New Mexico. This HIE would offer clear health insurance alternatives to individuals and businesses. It would also coordinate eligibility for Medicaid and other public health insurance programs. In addition, it would determine eligibility and administer federal subsidies for buying health insurance. It would be in full operation by January 1, 2014.

Background:

The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009 (PPACA) allowed for states to set up health insurance exchanges (HIEs) would offer clear and understandable health insurance choices to individuals and small businesses. These HIEs must be in operation by January 1, 2014. The operations that must be set up are complex so it is imperative that the Legislature act in 2011. Our legislation creates that HIE based upon four key principles: It should be a strong and active purchaser; it should be quasi-governmental to maintain independence; it should have strong conflict of interest language; and it should strive for maximum transparency.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Bill drafted

Other: Discussion draft is in process as of November 5th.

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Health Action New Mexico

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

Health Action New Mexico League of Women Voters of New Mexico Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-NM New Mexico Voices for Children Southwest Womens Law Center Raising Women's Voices for Health Care-NM New Mexico Alliance for Retired Americans RESULTS-Santa Fe

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

No additional support needed at this time

Who is the contact for more information?

<i>Contact name:</i>	Barbara Webber
<i>Contact Organization:</i>	Health Action New Mexico
<i>Contact Phone:</i>	505-867-1095
<i>Contact E-Mail:</i>	barbarak.webber@gmail.com
<i>Contact Website:</i>	http://www.healthactionnm.org/



Sponsoring organization:

Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign

Brief description of proposal:

Three fold strategy this legislative session: Support legislation that would authorize the LFC to conduct a cost analysis of a state exchange and other approached such as Health Security. Support a joint memorial requesting the Congressional delegation to have the date of 2017 removed in the "waivers for state innovation" which currently exists in the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act (PPACA). Support the Health Security Act, the only proposal, according to two separate independent studies, that controls rising health care costs and provides coverage for all New Mexicans.

Background:

The Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign is a statewide, nonpartisan coalition of over 145 organizations. Established in 1992, the HSNMC's mission is to create a publicly accountable health care system in New Mexico that guarantees comprehensive medical and mental health care coverage to all residents, allows for freedom of choice of providers and controls costs.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Presented to interim committees

Bill drafted

Have sponsor: Sen. Carlos Sisneros (HSA), Rep. Mimi Stewart (Joint Memorial)

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Our Campaign's Executive Director, Mary Feldblum, is our lobbyist.

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

We have over 145 member organizations in the state of NM who support this legislation.

Who is the contact for more information?

Contact name: Dana Schultz Millen, PhD, MPH

Contact Organization: Health Security for NM Campaign Education and Outreach Coordinator

Contact Phone: 505-269-3779 or 505-856-8359

Contact E-Mail: dsmillen@msn.com

Contact Website: www.nmhealthsecurity.org



Sponsoring organization:

Hidalgo Medical Services

Brief description of proposal:

The bill asks the Sec. of HUMAN Service to develop a task force to design an Accountable Care Organization in Hidalgo County. The Task Force will be funded through contractual amendments to Medicaid MCO contracts and therefore there will be no fiscal impact. The task force will design a financial payment system for Medicaid, Medicare and UNinsured patients that support the delivery of comprehensive primary care service that provides incentives for improving population health and reducing per capita health care cost in a risk bearing environment. The project will serve approximately 4,000 individuals, 3,000 of whom are currently within the public payment system.

Background:

HMS, UNM, HSD, Molina Health Plan and others have been working to develop this concept for the last 2.5 years. The model is intended to remove volume and complexity incentives in health care spending in order to focus on developing quantifiable improvements in health status, reducing health care costs by working with families to improve chronic disease outcomes and other public health goals such as reducing teen pregnancy and teen suicide rates. The models of intervention will combine best clinical practices with evidence-based non-clinical community centric interventions. There will also be a focus on social determinants and economic development. Current health care dollars would be reorganized in support of a remodeled service system.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Presented to interim committees
Bill drafted

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Charlie Alfero

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

UNM, DOH, HSD, Molina Health Plan, Health Action NM, others

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Sign on to endorsement letters
Provide lobbying support if possible

Who is the contact for more information?

<i>Contact name:</i>	Charlie Alfero
<i>Contact Organization:</i>	HMS
<i>Contact Phone:</i>	575-538-1618
<i>Contact E-Mail:</i>	Calfero@hmsnm.org
<i>Contact Website:</i>	hmsnm.org



Sponsoring organization:

Mountain View Community Action

Brief description of proposal:

The Consolidated Environmental Review Act will require over-arching environmental reviews for projects having significant environmental impacts as part of the permitting process.

Background:

The proposed legislation is in response to the siting of a concrete batch plant across the street from Mountain View's only community center and gathering place. The concrete batch plant was permitted by the City's Air Quality Division in spite of testimony by community members on: 1) the pedestrian safety hazards, due to increased concrete truck traffic, of locating a concrete batch plant across the street from a community center, 2) the potentially adverse health effects to residents resulting from particulate matter emitted from the concrete batch plant, 3) the discriminatory nature of locating a concrete batch plant in a predominantly low-income, minority community, and 4) the cumulative exposures to residents resulting from the concrete batch plant and other toxic industries located in the community. This legislation, if passed, will ensure that all environmental impacts resulting from a proposed project, as well as existing facilities, will be assessed at the front-end of the permitting process. This will decrease: 1) costly environmental mitigation, 2) costly health care, and 3) costly litigation down the road. The proposed legislation will also streamline the environmental permitting process and allow for greater community participation in permitting decisions.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Presented to interim committees

Bill drafted

Have sponsor: Rep. Chasey

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Conservation Voters New Mexico, Environmental Alliance of New Mexico

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

Provide lobbying support if possible

Who is the contact for more information?

Contact name: Marla Painter
Contact Organization: Mtn. View Community Action
Contact Phone: (505) 877-5017
Contact E-Mail: marlasdesk@gmail.com
Contact Website: None



Sponsoring organization:

My Community NM

Brief description of proposal:

Encourage State agencies, committees and contractors to utilize My Community NM to record information about the services they provide and projects they are involved in, which support underserved New Mexicans.

Background:

Since 2002, MyCommunityNM.org has been providing free, on-line information on resources for underserved populations in health, human services, and other areas. The project began as a collaborative effort in Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties between the two County Health Councils and community-based organizations in Bernalillo County. While most resources are currently in Central New Mexico, the scope of information is expanding statewide. My Community NM provides both on-line and print information in easy to understand formats. House Memorial 49 (February 2010) requested the Department of Health to establish a task force to assess the benefits of utilizing My NM as the State's comprehensive, bilingual resource directory for underserved New Mexicans. The New Mexico Department of Health has been supporting My Community NM through the County Health Councils since 2002. To assist with this assessment the steering committee task force, which included representatives from County, State, and private, non-profit organizations, developed and distributed two on-line surveys.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Still in the planning/discussion phase

Have sponsor: Representative Danice Picraux

Other: The steering committee findings and request for legislative support were presented at the Nov 9 Interim Health and Human Services Committee meeting.

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

no

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

My Community NM partners

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

Who is the contact for more information?

<i>Contact name:</i>	Leora Jaeger
<i>Contact Organization:</i>	My Community NM
<i>Contact Phone:</i>	505 281 2438
<i>Contact E-Mail:</i>	leora@mycommunitynm
<i>Contact Website:</i>	www.mycommunitynm.org



Sponsoring organization:

NM Alliance for School-Based Health Care

Brief description of proposal:

Proposed cuts to school-based health care and other public health services will result in the loss of vital health care services to children and youth. Please prepare a revenue package that emphasizes tax fairness and accountability so that we can ensure funds are spent appropriately on our most vulnerable populations -- our children. New Mexico desperately needs additional revenue so more cuts aren't made to critical programs. Invest in children and families -- which strengthens New Mexico.

Background:

School-based health centers are partnerships created by schools and community health organizations to provide on-site preventive, medical, behavioral, and oral health services for school-aged children and adolescents. SBHCs offer convenient access to care. Students who don't get medical treatment elsewhere can get it at their school, regardless of their ability to pay. SBHCs also give students medical attention when they need it, catching individual and family problems early, thus preventing bigger problems later in life. Some legislators believe that federal health reform funds will shore up these programs so that state budget cuts can be applied in these areas. Cuts are likely to be applied to contracts.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Other: Information has been provided to SBHC Coordinators so they can educate their legislators about the impact of potential cuts in their communities.

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Not at this time.

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

None at this time.

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists
Provide lobbying support if possible

Who is the contact for more information?

Contact name: Patsy Nelson
Contact Organization: NM Alliance for School-Based Health Centers
Contact Phone: 505-228-5087
Contact E-Mail: patsyncnelson@msn.com
Contact Website: www.nmasbhc.org



Sponsoring organization:

NM Healthier Weight Council

Brief description of proposal:

Complete Streets: 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.

Background:

Complete streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a complete street. Creating complete streets means transportation agencies change their orientation of building for cars. Instituting a complete streets policy ensures that transportation agencies routinely design and operate the entire right of way to enable safe access for all users. Places with complete streets policies ensure that their roads work for drivers, transit users, pedestrians, bicyclists, older people, children, and people with disabilities.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Still in the planning/discussion phase

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Erin Marshall

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

Currently building a Leadership Team

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists
Sign on to endorsement letters
Provide lobbying support if possible

Who is the contact for more information?

Contact name: Erin Marshall
Contact Organization: NM Healthier Weight Council
Contact Phone: 505-980-5355
Contact E-Mail: erinmc.nm@gmail.com
Contact Website: www.nmhealthierweight.org



Sponsoring organization:

NM Healthier Weight Council

Brief description of proposal:

Sweetened Beverage Initiative: Support 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 nurses, quality physical activity in schools, Farm to School programs and more.

Background:

An Epidemic for 1 in 3 Children: More than 60 percent of New Mexico residents and 32 percent of children aged 10-17 are overweight or obese. New Mexico spends \$324 million annually in obesity-related medical expenditures. Sweetened beverages are a large source of empty calories and contribute to obesity and greater health risks in children. One extra serving per day can increase the chance of obesity by 60%. A tax of one penny per ounce of SSB in New Mexico would generate an estimated \$95 million in annual revenue. Funds could be used to support critical public health programs.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Still in the planning/discussion phase

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Erin Marshall

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

NM Pediatric Society, NM Dairy Max, NM After School Alliance, NM Alliance for School Based Health Care, Health Action NM

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

Provide lobbying support if possible

Who is the contact for more information?

Contact name: Erin Marshall
Contact Organization: NM Healthier Weight Council
Contact Phone: 505-980-5355
Contact E-Mail: erinmc.nm@gmail.com
Contact Website: www.nmhealthierweight.org

**Sponsoring organization:**

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

Brief description of proposal:

Amend the Workers' Compensation Act to eliminate the exclusion of protections for farm and ranch laborers (includes migrant and seasonal farm workers, dairy/cattle/poultry workers, etc.) By eliminating the exclusion, employers of farm and ranch workers will be required to purchase workers' compensation insurance for their employees, something that is not required of them under the current law.

Background:

All employers with three or more employees in New Mexico are required to provide workers' compensation to their employees except for employers of farm and ranch laborers and private domestic servants. Farm and ranch work is a dangerous occupation with high rates of injuries. Workers' compensation insurance pays for all medical bills stemming from the on-the-job injury as well as lost wages. Because farm and ranch laborers are specifically excluded from the protections of the law, unless their employer voluntarily provides workers' compensation, they must pay their own medical bills and will not receive any lost wages. The average annual income of a migrant farm worker is \$7,000 per year and that of a dairy worker is approximately \$18,000 per year.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Bill drafted

Have sponsor: Representative Antonio Lujan, Las Cruces

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

The following are endorsers of the legislation: NM Conference of Catholic Bishops Colonias Development Council NM Federation of Labor Enlace Comunitario National Center for Farmworker Health Lutheran Advocacy Ministry National Employment Law Project Farmworker Justice Somos Un Pueblo Unido Synod of the Southwest NM Public Health Association

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

Provide lobbying support if possible

No additional support needed at this time

Who is the contact for more information?

<i>Contact name:</i>	Maria Martinez
<i>Contact Organization:</i>	New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
<i>Contact Phone:</i>	505-255-2840
<i>Contact E-Mail:</i>	maria@nmpovertylaw.org
<i>Contact Website:</i>	www.nmpovertylaw.org



Sponsoring organization:

New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Brief description of proposal:

Permitting biomedical research on limited categories of human embryonic stem cells; prohibiting human cloning; imposing penalties; amending the maternal, fetal and infant experimentation act.

Background:

An estimated 128 million Americans suffer from the crippling physical, economical and psychological burdens of chronic, degenerative and acute diseases. Human embryonic stem cell research and other biomedical research in the life sciences and regenerative medicine present a significant chance of yielding fundamental biological knowledge from which may emanate therapies to relieve, on a large scale, human suffering from disease and injury. As people of faith, we are called to be partners with God in healing and in the alleviation of human pain and suffering. With careful regulation, we support the use of human stem cell tissue for research that may result in the restoring of health to those suffering of chronic, degenerative and acute diseases.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Bill drafted

Have sponsor: Representative Al Park

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Joan Lamunyon Sanford, Executive Director, NM Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

None at this time

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

Provide lobbying support if possible

Who is the contact for more information?

<i>Contact name:</i>	Joan Lamunyon Sanford
<i>Contact Organization:</i>	NM Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
<i>Contact Phone:</i>	505-890-1010
<i>Contact E-Mail:</i>	execdir@nmrcrc.org
<i>Contact Website:</i>	nmrcrc.org



Sponsoring organization:

State Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino (district 12)

Brief description of proposal:

A Senate Joint Resolution (constitutional amendment) which would require voter approval in the next general election to be included in the State Constitution: "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."

Background:

This is essentially the same wording as the North Carolina Legislature is considering, a paraphrase of a statement that now deceased Catholic Cardinal Bernadin suggested to establish health care as a basic human right, not a privilege, for all.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Have sponsor: Senator Ortiz y Pino

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

A group of UNM-area medical professionals who suggested it.

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

None as yet; we will contact others prior to the session to seek support.

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

Who is the contact for more information?

Contact name: Senator Ortiz y Pino

Contact Organization: state senate

Contact Phone: 505 250-1280

Contact E-Mail: jortizyp@msn.com

Contact Website: nmlegis.gov

**Sponsoring organization:**

Think New Mexico

Brief description of proposal:

Incentivize the creation of smaller public schools, which are defined as no more than 400 students for elementary and middle schools and no more than 900 students for high schools. In addition, prioritize renovation projects designed to break up existing large schools into smaller learning communities or smaller schools within schools.

Background:

Small schools improve student health by keeping kids safe: a U.S. Department of Education study found that 33% of schools larger than 1,000 reported serious violent crimes, compared with 4-9% in small and medium-sized schools. Small schools also experience less student alienation, higher student achievement (particularly among low-income and minority students), and significantly higher graduation rates. High school graduates benefit from higher incomes and lower unemployment rates than dropouts, which lead to better long-term health outcomes. Think New Mexico's legislation will help all children attending New Mexico's public schools by making those schools small, safe environments where students can succeed.

Where is the issue in the Legislative Process?

Bill drafted

Do you have someone (individual or organization) who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes. Think New Mexico's staff members.

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?

We are working to build on the diverse coalition of supporters we mobilized in support of this effort over the past two years, including national education reform organizations (Coalition of Essential Schools; Rural School & Community Trust), New Mexico education organizations (Center for the Education & Study of Diverse Populations; ENLACE-Engaging Latino Families in Education; NEA-NM; New Mexico Coalition of Charter Schools), business groups (African American Chamber of Commerce; New Voice of Business; Santa Fe Alliance), civic groups (American Association of University Women; New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops; Farm to Table; New Mexico Forum for Youth; Santa Fe Community Foundation), environmental organizations (Conservation Voters New Mexico, Earth Care International), and public health advocates (New Mexico Public Health Association; St. Joseph Community Health).

What kind of support are you seeking for your proposal from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

Provide lobbying support if possible

Who is the contact for more information?

Contact name: Jason Espinoza, Field Director

Contact Organization: Think New Mexico

Contact Phone: 505-992-1315

Contact E-Mail: jason@thinknewmexico.org

Contact Website: www.thinknewmexico.org