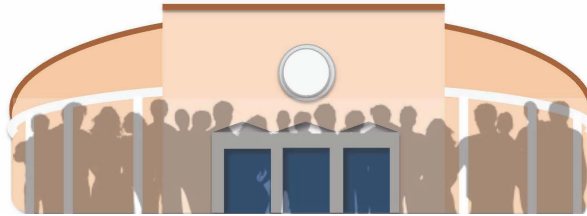




New Mexico Public Health Association

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Policy Forum



### *Effective Advocacy: From Grassroots to the Roundhouse*

Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Albuquerque, NM

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# **LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS** *for the* **2017 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE**

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NMPHA convenes this statewide Health Policy Legislative Forum every year to bring together organizations and individuals involved and interested in health policy and/or who are advocating for specific legislative initiatives in the New Mexico Legislature. The Forum provides an opportunity to share potential and proposed legislation, to build alliances and find partners, and to learn more about the legislative process in New Mexico.

The legislative proposals in this booklet have been submitted to the NMPHA, and will be presented at the 11th Annual Health Policy Legislative Forum—Health in All Policies. After the Forum, the Policy Committee will determine the level of support we are able to provide for the proposed legislation and make a recommendation to the NMPHA Board for approval.

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## Sponsoring Organization

AARP NM

## Description of Proposed Legislation

The CAREGIVER LEAVE ACT would allow employees to use some of their personal sick leave benefits to care for family members.

## Background

Nearly 280,000 New Mexicans care for older parents, spouses, children with disabilities or other loved ones, helping them live independently at home and in their communities—where they want to be. These family caregivers take on huge responsibilities that can be overwhelming, stressful and exhausting. Many also juggle full- or part-time jobs and some are still raising their families. As these family caregivers face physical, emotional and financial challenges, we can take some commonsense legislative steps that would help make their lives a little bit easier. THE CAREGIVER LEAVE ACT would help workers remain in the workforce and continue as family caregivers.

## Where is this issue in the legislative process?

Presented to interim committees; Bill drafted

## Legislation's sponsor

Rep. Debbie Armstrong

## Who will lobby for this legislation?

AARP

## Other organizations working to support this legislation

TBD

## Support sought from NMPHA

Send action alerts to membership/email lists; Sign on to endorsement letters; Provide supportive testimony

## Contact Information

DeAnza Valencia Sapien  
505-303-9587  
dvalencia@aarp.org  
states.aarp.org/region/new-mexico

## **Sponsoring Organization**

Alcohol Taxes Save Lives and Money

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

The coalition is advocating for a \$.25 per drink increase in New Mexico's alcohol tax to save lives, reduce underage drinking, pay for some of the harms caused by excessive drinking, and fund: Expanding alcohol prevention & treatment programs; Reimbursing cities and counties for the costs of alcohol-related harms; Continued health care coverage under the Medicaid expansion

## **Background**

Alcohol taxes haven't been raised in NM since 1993. Over time, inflation has diminished the value of these taxes, so that alcohol tax revenues contribute substantially less as a percentage of own-source total general revenue. This means that the alcohol industry gets a tax break while New Mexicans bear the social and economic costs of people drinking too much. New Mexico leads the nation in alcohol-attributable deaths, with 1 in 6 deaths among people aged 20-64 caused by excessive drinking. Although we have seen substantial and encouraging declines in DWI fatalities, the total number of deaths caused by alcohol is increasing. Excessive drinking costs NM over two billion dollars every year. The proposed tax increase would result in substantial decreases in deaths, disease, and violence in our state. Increasing the alcohol tax as suggested by the state coalition is estimated to reduce alcohol consumption by 10%, generate \$154 million in new state revenues annually, increase economic productivity, create jobs and save at least 50 lives each year.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Still in planning/discussion phase; Presented to interim committees

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Peter DeBenedittis, Tom Starke, and many individual and organizational members of Alcohol Taxes Save Lives & Money

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

A diverse group of individuals and organizations are supporting this effort.

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

Send action alerts to membership/email lists; Sign on to endorsement letters; Outreach and advocacy from NMPHA members who are interested in reducing alcohol-related harm

## **Contact Information**

Peter De Benedittis, PhD  
505-670-9797  
alcoholtaxessavelives@gmail.com  
www.alcoholtaxessavelives.org

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## **Sponsoring Organization**

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

Increase the tax on cigarettes by \$1.50 with an equivalent increase in other tobacco products.

## **Background**

Regular, significant increases in the price of tobacco is the single most effective way to prevent youth from smoking. If passed, the proposed tax would be projected to result in a 17 percent decrease in youth smoking, prevent 7,700 premature smoking-caused deaths, and save the state \$535 million in long-term health care costs.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Presented to interim committees; Bill drafted

## **Legislation's sponsor**

Representative D. Wonda Johnson; Senator Howie Morales

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

ACS CAN, Linda Siegle (ACS CAN lobbyist), American Heart Association, Natasha Ning (AHA lobbyist)

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, American Thoracic Society, Keres Consulting, New Mexico Cancer Center

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Sandra Adondakis  
505-262-6019  
sandra.adondakis@cancer.org  
acscan.org/nm

## **Sponsoring Organization**

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

We propose to maintain tobacco use prevention and cessation program funding at current levels.

## **Background**

The CDC recommends that New Mexico invest \$22.8 million in comprehensive tobacco control programs. The FY17 appropriation to tobacco control totaled \$5,684,500, just 25% of the CDC recommendation and \$247,000 less than the FY16 appropriation. New Mexico can't afford to continue making cuts to these lifesaving and cost saving programs.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Still in planning/discussion phase

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Sandra Adondakis, Linda Siegle

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

American Heart Association, American Lung Association, New Mexico Allied Council on Tobacco, Keres Consulting, NM Cancer Center, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Southwest Tribal Tobacco Coalition, Disability Advisory Group About Tobacco

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Sandra Adondakis  
505-262-6019  
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acscan.org/nm



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## **Sponsoring Organization**

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

The proposed legislation would prohibit minors from using indoor tanning devices.

## **Background**

Teenagers and young adults use indoor tanning devices at higher rates than their older counterparts, making melanoma the fourth most common cancer among young men and women aged 15-29 years. Because a young person's skin is still developing it makes them even more susceptible to the harmful effects of UV rays. Using a tanning device before the age of 35 increases the risk of melanoma by 59 percent.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Bill drafted

## **Legislation's sponsor**

Representative G. Andrés Romero

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Sandra Adondakis, Linda Siegle

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

Local dermatology clinics, MD Anderson Melanoma and Skin Center

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Sandra Adondakis  
505-262-6019  
sandra.adondakis@cancer.org  
acscan.org/nm

## **Sponsoring Organization**

Breath Of My Heart Birthplace

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

NM Licensed Midwives (Licensed by NM DOH) are required to carry and administer a limited formulary of pharmaceutical drugs for use during labor and delivery. Currently, Licensed Midwives have no mechanism to obtain the required pharmaceuticals for use in their home birth and birth center practices. Proposed legislation addresses a gap in existing New Mexico law. Together we will improve access to a midwifery model of care in our states under-served rural, frontier, and urban areas, positively impacting disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes.

## **Background**

Licensed Midwives are Part of the Solution: In New Mexico, licensed midwives provide essential prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum care to pregnant women and families. By more effectively integrating licensed midwives into New Mexico's maternity care system, we can positively impact maternal and child health outcomes in our state. New Mexico, like much of the US, is facing a maternal health provider shortage. Licensed midwives have the capacity to reach underserved rural, frontier and urban areas with community-based practices. Midwives providing culturally responsive care can also help address maternal and infant health disparities, which are more pronounced in racial and ethnic minority communities due to a range of social determinants. Integration of licensed midwives can also address the high cost of maternity care in the US. Midwife providers working in out-of-hospital settings can effectively deliver high-quality maternity care at a significantly lower cost. Health policy experts, including analysts at the PEW Charitable Trust, cite "several reasons for the high number of deaths related to pregnancy or childbirth in the U.S., including high rates of chronic diseases, such as diabetes and obesity, and lack of access to maternal health care." Planned home births attended by licensed midwives result in lower rates of interventions with comparable or improved outcomes for mothers and babies.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Still in planning/discussion phase

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Young Women United (Micaela Cadena, Denicia Cadena), New Mexico Midwives Association (Kelly Camden), Breath of My Heart Birthplace (Jess Goodfriend).

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

Young Women United, New Mexico Midwives Association

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

Sign on to endorsement letters

## **Contact Information**

Micaela Cadena  
575-644-5830  
micaela.cadena@gmail.com  
breathofmyheart.org

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## Sponsoring Organization

Deconstructing Racism Working Group of the NMHEWG

## Description of Proposed Legislation

Senator Linda Lopez and Representative Javier Martinez will introduce An Anti-Institutional Racism Bill in 2017. This bill will require that all agencies and entities that receive state funding assess and report on their anti-racism policies and provide and document appropriate anti-racism and anti-oppression training to all staff annually.

## Background

The Deconstructing Racism Committee of the New Mexico Health Equity Working Group (NMHEWG) with its many partners has introduced Anti-Institutional Racism legislation since 2009. In 2012, SM 51 was passed and in 2014 SM 33 was passed, both addressing institutional racism. In 2015 and 2016, Anti-Institutional Racism legislation was introduced, but not passed. In 2017, Senator Linda Lopez and Representative Javier Martinez will be introducing an Anti-Institutional Racism Bill. Separate from legislation, the Deconstructing Racism Working Group of the NMHEWG has received support from the Con Alma Health Foundation and McCune to host an Anti-Racism Day event in the Rotunda from 1-2 on 1/31, featuring students presenting their entries for the *"Courageous Conversation": How Has Racism Impacted Me?* Additionally, An Anti-Racism Pledge is available for you to sign and pledge to take action to address racism.

## Where is this issue in the legislative process?

Bill drafted

## Legislation's sponsor

Senator Linda Lopez and Representative Javier Martinez

## Who will lobby for this legislation?

The New Mexico Health Equity Working Group/Deconstructing Racism Working Group, The New Mexico Asian Family Center, the New Mexico YWCA, CVNMEF - Juntos: Our Air, Our Water, Together for Brothers, UNM Institute for the Study of "Race" & Social Justice, Southwest Organizing Project, the Partnership for Community Action, Families United for Education, UNM Office for Diversity, UNM Community Engagement Center

## Support sought from NMPHA

Send action alerts to membership/email lists; Sign the Anti-Racism Pledge, Attend Anti-Racism Day activities - 1/31/17 with tables available all day and an event from 1-2 in the Rotunda.

## Contact Information

Kristine Suozzi  
505-266-1421  
kosuozzi@yahoo.com

## **Sponsoring Organization**

No sponsoring organization (submission by Dr. Cosette Wheeler)

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

The New Mexico HPV Pap Registry (NMHPVPR) is a unique resource that allows public health practitioners and researchers to track the potential benefits as well as any unexpected harms of HPV vaccines or changes in Pap and HPV cancer screening including recent changes in the frequency with which women have been recommended to get Pap tests (instead of every year now every 3-5 years). The effectiveness of HPV vaccination and screening of women for cervical cancer is essential given these two interventions both target the prevention of cervical cancer and other HPV-associated cancers with health care dollars in the U.S. for HPV-associated disease prevention exceeding 10 billion dollars each year. Legislation is proposed to in-part support the core operations of the New Mexico HPV Pap Registry with funds requested to replace a portion of current federal resources, which will be cut in the upcoming fiscal year.

## **Background**

Human papillomaviruses (HPVs) are the cause of virtually all cervical cancer worldwide and the cause of a number of other cancers including cancers of the middle throat. To prevent HPV-associated cancers, HPV vaccines are recommended for routine administration to all boys and girls from ages 9-12 years and Pap tests are still recommended for all women every 3 years. Since 2006, when HPV vaccines were first licensed, a partnership between the New Mexico Department of Health and researchers at the University of New Mexico has maintained a registry to insure the health of New Mexicans and to provide comprehensive true population-based information on HPV prevention. Serving as a global public health model, the NMHPVPR is lead by national and international public health experts working to generate data to inform the most effective and cost-effective integration of HPV prevention for the United States.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Bill drafted; Requested appropriation

## **Legislation's sponsor**

Senator Ortiz y Pino

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Dr. Cosette Wheeler  
505-269-5817  
cosettewheeler@gmail.com

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## Sponsoring Organization

Dream Dragon Development

## Description of Proposed Legislation

1: *Las Vegas Hospital Pilot Project*: Build a model housing and follow up treatment facility at three locations in state of NM. Housing and nutritional support facility will provide compassionate support, safe housing activities, access to libraries, employment support, and medication dispensary. The idea is to build the model, share the model, and if possible transfer the model. Addresses a growing need to provide housing and follow up services following discharge from Las Vegas Hospital or a corrections setting.

2: *Pedestrian Collision Reduction Program/Sports Safety Program/Motor Safety Program*: By way of US/NM Dept. of Transportation and available schools and govt. offices throughout NM, develop support to include an exhibit of photographs of children and adults wearing helmets placed in doctor's offices and clinics to encourage the use of apparel, helmets, reflectors, and light systems to be used by pedestrians and low-speed traffic. Program must also reach out to govt. entities to provide and fund "safe passage" training with particular emphasis on lighting, ADA compliant access, and access by way of safe bike paths and a mapping project that will move the wheelers from high speed urban roadways to slow speed neighborhoods throughout Albuquerque/NM where possible.

## Background

I am a graduate of UNM with a degree in Psychology/Community and Regional Planning. I am disabled. I am a Veteran. I am a journalist.

## Where is this issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase

## Who will lobby for this legislation?

Frank Martin

## Other organizations working to support this legislation

None as yet

## Support sought from NMPHA

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

## Contact Information

Frank Martin  
505 261 3768  
frankebab@gmail.com

## **Sponsoring Organization**

Drug Policy Alliance

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

Constitutional Amendment legalizing adult use of cannabis in New Mexico. It would go directly to the voters on the 2018 ballot without possibility of gubernatorial veto. Legislature would have to draft enabling legislation in 2019 session if it passes.

## **Background**

Several previous attempts have failed, though each time it progresses further. At this writing nine states now have legalized adult use of cannabis. Those states find it reduces jail populations, increases economic activity and generates additional state and local revenues.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Bill drafted

## **Legislation's sponsor**

Senator Ortiz y Pino

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Emily Kaltenbach and David Schmidt represent the Drug Policy Alliance in legislative sessions as registered lobbyists.

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

A diverse group of individuals and organizations are supporting this effort.

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

## **Contact Information**

State Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino  
505-250-1280  
jortizyp@msn.com

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## Sponsoring Organization

Drug Policy Alliance

## Description of Proposed Legislation

Three legislative proposals: 1) Tax and Regulation of Marijuana 2) Overdose Prevention and 3) Decriminalization of certain drug related charges

## Background

New Mexico is faced with extreme budget shortfalls. There are responsible solutions to these problems. Legalizing marijuana is a path to prosperity for New Mexico. Not only will it increase tax revenue, generate commerce, and supports the agricultural economy, it is smart policy that keeps kids safe. Legalizing marijuana for adult use is an opportunity to grow New Mexico, keeping us true to our values and the things we care most about: the wellbeing of our children, community health, and the future of our state. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of New Mexico residents support the legalization and regulation of marijuana for adults. The Drug Policy Alliance is working to end marijuana prohibition and protect the rights of medical marijuana patients in New Mexico. For the last three years DPA has been advocating at the state legislature for passage of a Constitutional Amendment allowing the possession, use, and sales of marijuana. In 2016 this measure made history when it was heard on the Senate Floor; it was narrowly defeated by a five (5) vote margin. This coming legislative session, starting Jan 2017, we will again be working to pass legalization legislation.

## Where is this issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase; Bill drafted

## Support sought from NMPHA

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

## Contact Information

Emily Kaltenbach  
505-920-5256  
ekaltenbach@drugpolicy.org

## **Sponsoring Organization**

No sponsoring organization (submitted by Elizabeth Holguin)

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

Under current Medicaid regulations, undocumented immigrants are unable to qualify for Medicaid or the Exchange. I propose to amend current regulations to allow undocumented immigrants to apply for Medicaid coverage based on income eligibility to promote cost savings by eliminating widespread use of Emergency Medicaid services.

## **Background**

Last year, SB No. 4 was passed in California under Medi-Cal to allow children under the age of 19 to be eligible for health care coverage regardless of immigration status; the program became fully operational by May 1, 2016. The goal of the program is to ensure that no income-eligible child will be denied access to coverage and the bill will make ensure that those that currently have limited eligibility status will be able to easily transition to full-scope Medi-Cal. The United States has more foreign-born residents than any other country. Twenty- eight percent are estimated to be undocumented (Hilfinger et al., 2015). Undocumented immigrants account for over three percent of the U.S. population (Baker & Rytina, 2013). Sixty- five percent of undocumented immigrants lack health insurance, compared with 32 percent of permanent residents (Derose et al, 2007). Extending eligibility guidelines could actually offset high costs of managing others with multiple chronic conditions since the undocumented are relatively young and healthy, requiring less health care than the native population (Ortega et al, 2015; Goldman et al, 2006; Berlinger & Raghavan, 2013). For example, regarding use of Emergency Medicaid usage, DuBard & Massing (2007) reviewed 48,391 cases and found that 99% of users were undocumented. Under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, emergency department treatment is available to all regardless of immigration status. This discourages primary care use and replaces it with much more costly care, affecting both recipients of care and taxpayers (Ortega et al, 2015). Without regular access, care is commonly delayed and most present during more advanced stages of illness, which in turn leads to increasingly aggressive, invasive and costly interventions (Ortega et al, 2015; Zuckerman et al, 2011; Campbell et al, 2014).

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Still in planning/discussion phase

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Elizabeth Holguin  
505-331-7773  
elholguin@salud.unm.edu



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## Sponsoring Organization

Equality New Mexico

## Description of Proposed Legislation

An act relating to professional services; enacting a new section of the Unfair Practices Act to declare Conversion Therapy to be unlawful within the meaning of the Unfair Practices Act; enacting new sections of the Nursing Practice Act, the Medical Practice Act, the Professional Psychologist Act, the Osteopathic Medicine Act, the Counseling and Therapy Practice Act and the Social Work Practice Act to list Conversion Therapy as grounds for disciplinary action.

## Background

In the past, some mental health professionals resorted to extreme measures such as institutionalization, castration, and electroconvulsive shock therapy to try to stop people from being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT). Today, while some counselors still use physical treatments like aversive conditioning, the techniques most commonly used include a behavioral, cognitive, psychoanalytic, and other practices that try to change same-sex attraction or a person's gender identity. While contemporary versions of conversion therapy are less extreme than some used in the past, they are not evidence based and pose serious dangers to patients—especially to minors. The American Psychiatric Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Pan American Health Organization have all opposed conversion therapy. Some risks associated with conversion therapy include: depression, guilt, hopelessness, social withdrawal, suicidality, substance abuse, decreased self-esteem, increased self-hatred, hostility and blame toward parents, feelings of anger and betrayal, serious relationship problems, high-risk sexual behaviors, a feeling of being dehumanized and untrue to self, a loss of faith, and a sense of having wasted time and resources. The risks are even greater for youth, and minors who experience family rejection based on their sexual orientation or gender identity face serious health risks.

## Where is this issue in the legislative process?

Bill drafted

## Legislation's sponsor

Senator Jacob Candalaria

## Who will lobby for this legislation?

Equality New Mexico, Linda Siegle (Resources for Change)

## Other organizations working to support this legislation

Formal solicitation of organizational support is underway. Core supporters: ACLU of New Mexico, New Mexico GSA Network, Santa Fe Mountain Center, Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico, PFLAG, GLSEN Albuquerque.

## Support sought from NMPHA

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

## Contact Information

Amber Royster  
360-820-1485  
amber@eqnm.org  
www.eqnm.org

## **Sponsoring Organization**

Every Town for Gun Safety

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

Common sense gun safety measures that would require all persons purchasing firearms to have a background check. Closes the loopholes in background checks at gun shows and online.

## **Background**

A strong majority of the public supports requiring background checks to purchase firearms. However, many people do not realize that there are loopholes to avoid doing so, including online purchases and some purchases at gun shows. Currently, licensed dealers are required to do background checks but in New Mexico firearms are being purchased online and at gun shows without having background checks. This legislation would close these loopholes.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Still in planning/discussion phase

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Everytown for Gun Safety, which includes Moms Demand Action.

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Julianna Koob  
505-920-6002  
Koobjulie@yahoo.com  
Everytown.org

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## Sponsoring Organization

Health Action New Mexico

## Description of Proposed Legislation

The NM Dental Access Bill includes a scope of practice for licensing mid level dental therapists to add to the dental care workforce in New Mexico. It also includes reports and/or studies to be prepared by two interim committees each year on the state of oral health in New Mexico and dental exam for students in New Mexico with a packet of oral health information for parents on the importance of dental care for primary teeth and the link of dental care to overall health care.

## Background

Health Action NM has supported legislation for licensure of dental therapists in four legislative sessions. In 2015 the legislation passed the NM Legislative House. 2017 will be the fifth time legislation has been introduced and vetted in committees. In 2017, a task force was created by the legislature comprised of panels picked by the NM Dental Hygiene Association, the NM Dental Association and appointed legislators in addition to the bill sponsors. The task force met for four 8-hour sessions over the course of the summer of 2015. Health Action was on the task force on the panel for the NM Dental Hygiene Association. At the end, a compromise agreement was reached and resulting legislation was introduced in 2016 but not put on the Governor's call. After addressing issues raised in interim committees and by the Governor's policy office, new legislation reflecting changes to address issues was created and is with the legislative bill drafter. Four states have licensed dental therapists in the US and two more also have dental therapists working in their state.

## Where is this issue in the legislative process?

Bill with drafter for pre-filing; Presented to interim committees

## Legislation's sponsor

Rep Dennis Roch and Senator Benny Shendo

## Who will lobby for this legislation?

Health Action NM, NM Dental Hygienists Association

## Other organizations working to support this legislation

NM Dental Association and a Coalition of partner agencies

## Support sought from NMPHA

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

## Contact Information

Barbara Webber  
505-508-6531  
barbara@healthactionnm.org  
www.healthactionnm.org

## **Sponsoring Organization**

Health Action New Mexico

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

Health Action NM plans to submit a Memorial reaffirming New Mexico's commitment to the coverage gains made under the Affordable Care Act. The Memorial will highlight the full array of benefits to the state and call on leaders to support the progress that was achieved under reform..

## **Background**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) ushered in a new era of health care access. The law reduced the uninsured rate to the lowest level ever recorded and well over 300,000 New Mexicans have become insured since implementation. With the recent national election, the ACA faces repeal or serious restructuring that could reduce access to health care. Health Action NM seeks to pass a memorial to highlight the benefits of the ACA to the state, affirm New Mexico's commitment to continuing essential health programs, and assemble a task force to protect these gains and prepare for future scenarios..

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Still in planning/discussion phase

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Colin Baillio  
505-331-8818  
colin@healthactionnm.org  
www.HealthActionNM.org

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## Sponsoring Organization

Health Action New Mexico

## Description of Proposed Legislation

Drug Pricing Transparency - This legislation would require pharmaceutical manufacturers that produce high priced pharmaceuticals to submit information on how the drug is priced including the cost of development. It would also require notification of price increases over a certain percentage. Transparency is the first step towards reducing the escalating costs of drugs.

## Background

The price of pharmaceuticals is one of the major cost drivers in the health industry. Those costs are being passed on to consumers and adding to state health care costs. Health Action is working with Consumers Union and other state advocacy organization on this issue.

## Where is this issue in the legislative process?

Bill drafted; Still working on fine-tuning the bill

## Legislation's sponsor

Senator elect Jeff Steinborn

## Who will lobby for this legislation?

Health Action New Mexico

## Other organizations working to support this legislation?

Consumers Union and AARP

## Support sought from NMPHA

Send action alerts to membership/email lists; Sign on to endorsement letters; Health Action is forming the New Mexico Coalition for Affordable Pharmaceuticals. We would like organizations to join.

## Contact Information

Dick Mason  
505-994-0685  
[www.healthactionnm.org](http://www.healthactionnm.org)

## **Sponsoring Organization**

Health Security for NM Campaign

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been the law of the land for more than six years. Now, however, its future is in doubt. Congressional Republicans have threatened to repeal the ACA since it was enacted, and the president-elect has said that he will repeal the ACA. Under the current law, states can receive an innovation waiver to develop their own approaches to covering state residents. Many questions remain about what will change. What we know is that the current situation—rising premiums and copays, drug price increases, a trend toward plans with high deductibles, and decreasing choice of providers—is unsustainable. The *New Mexico Health Security Act* provides a well-thought-out alternative to the current system. If the ACA's "waiver for state innovation" survives, the Health Security Plan can be enacted in partnership with the ACA. If the ACA is dismantled, our state will desperately need a comprehensive "plan B." Whatever happens with the ACA, New Mexico needs to set up its own health plan that includes most New Mexicans regardless of age, employment, and health status. The Health Security Plan would provide a comprehensive benefit package and freedom of choice of healthcare provider and hospital, even across state lines.

## **Background**

Established in 1992, the Campaign is a statewide, nonpartisan coalition of over 145 organizations. Its 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 provider and controls costs.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Bill drafted, sponsored by Senator Howie Morales

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Many organizations support the Campaign. Executive Director Mary Feldblum is also the lobbyist for the Campaign.

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

Over 145 statewide organizations work with the Campaign to support the NM Health Security Act. A sampling of this list includes: NM Center for Law and Poverty, New Mexicans for a National Health Program, NAACP, Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless, Community Action Agency of Southern NM, Colonias Development Council (Las Cruces), NM Nurse Practitioner Council, NM Nurse Association, NM Environmental Law Center, NM Pharmacists Association, Physicians for the Health Security Act, Social Action Committee of the First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, Southwest Environmental Center (Las Cruces) and Veterans for Peace, Albuquerque Chapter.

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

## **Contact Information**

Mary Felblum  
505-897-1803  
hn2487@earthlink.net  
www.nmhealthsecurity.org

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### **Sponsoring Organization**

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - NM

### **Description of Proposed Legislation**

Opposing the reinstatement of the death penalty in New Mexico.

### **Background**

We are working with the New Mexico Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty to make sure that the death penalty, which was repealed in 2009, is not reinstated in New Mexico.

### **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Still in planning/discussion phase; We will be opposing any proposed legislation to reinstate the death penalty

### **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Ruth Hoffman

### **Other organizations working to support this legislation?**

NM Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty

### **Support sought from NMPHA**

Sign on to endorsement letters

### **Contact Information**

Ruth Hoffman  
505-660-7472  
ruth@lutheranadvocacynm.org  
lutheranadvocacynm.org

## **Sponsoring Organization**

New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

New Mexico's 38 county and tribal health councils have made major contributions to the health of New Mexico residents since their creation in 1991. State funding for the health councils (\$2.8 m.) was suspended in 2010, with \$195,000 restored in 2013 and an additional \$200,000 restored in 2015, reduced to \$178,000 by DOH in 2016. Restoration of \$700,000 is being sought in 2014 for local staff support to enable health councils to reach their full potential as an essential component of the state's public health system.

## **Background**

New Mexico's county and tribal health councils have successfully developed programs, policies, and partnerships that address locally-identified health needs and priorities, such as substance abuse, teen pregnancy, access to care, obesity and diabetes, interpersonal violence, emergency preparedness, and others. The health councils are a cost-effective way of improving our state's health and health equity, with exceptional return on investment, attracting up to an additional \$4 for every \$1 in state funding. In a state with a centralized public health system, the health councils provide an essential mechanism for community input and engagement, and community-based health assessment, planning, and locally-determined strategies for improving health.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Bill drafted; Requested appropriation

## **Legislation's sponsor**

Rep. Don Tripp and Senator Howie Morales

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

Health Action New Mexico, NM Assn. of Counties, J.Paul Taylor Task Force, and others.

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Ron Hale  
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ronhale@aol.com  
[www.nmhealthcouncils.org](http://www.nmhealthcouncils.org)



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## **Sponsoring Organization**

New Mexico Chiropractic Association

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

A bill to amend the Medicaid State plan to provide access for non-pharmacological approaches to pain management such as Chiropractic Medicine, Oriental Medicine, Naprapath and other natural approaches to pain management.

## **Background**

New Mexico has extremely high rates of death due to accidental overdose of opioid medications. The State does not reimburse through Medicaid the licensed providers who treat pain without the use of opioids (chiropractic physicians and doctors of Oriental Medicine).

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Presented to interim committees

## **Legislation's sponsor**

Senator Ortiz y Pino has been our champion in the pas

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

NMCA- Linda Siegle

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

Sign on to endorsement letters

## **Contact Information**

Dr. Michael Pridham  
505-872-1900  
michael@drpridham.com

## **Sponsoring Organization**

New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence NMCADV

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

Our proposed legislation is a memorial to create a task force charged with making recommendations for best practices for health care providers who treat victims of domestic violence and may have suffered a traumatic brain injury as a result of strangulation. Many first responders and emergency room personnel lack training to identify the signs and symptoms of strangulation and often focus on visible, obvious injuries like stab wounds or contusions; and many law enforcement agencies underestimate the significance of strangulation and fail to make appropriate medical referrals. A comprehensive, multi-pronged approach is needed to improve the response from law enforcement, first responders and the medical community; the task force would make recommendations for data collection, identify best practices and create a statewide health plan to reduce the incidence of interpersonal violence strangulation.

## **Background**

Strangulation has only recently been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence: unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes. Strangulation is an ultimate form of power and control, where the batterer can demonstrate control over the victim's next breath; having devastating psychological effects or a potentially fatal outcome. Nationally, one in four women will be subjected to intimate partner violence in her lifetime, and 10% of those women will be strangled by an intimate partner. It is estimated that there may be as many as 25,000 victims of domestic violence strangulation in New Mexico annually, more than 20 times higher than the number of women who will be diagnosed with breast cancer in the same time frame.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Still in planning/discussion phase; There's a draft of the memorial ready to send to LCS

## **Legislation's sponsor**

Rep. Deborah Armstrong

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Linda Siegle, the lobbyist for NMCADV will champion the memorial along with representatives from other organizations

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

In addition to the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic violence, this bill is supported by Santa Fe Safe, New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, and the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women.

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Sheila Lewis  
505-470-3535  
sheilainsantafe@gmail.com

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## **Sponsoring Organization**

New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

NMCEH will advocate to protect and increase funding for supportive housing, including supportive housing for families, youth and people with disabilities.

## **Background**

Supportive housing, which includes Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing and Transitional Housing, is a proven solution to homelessness.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Requested appropriation

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Lisa Huval and Hank Hughes from the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

We work with our member organizations throughout New Mexico

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Lisa Huval  
505-217-9570  
lisa-h@nmceh.org  
www.nmceh.org

## **Sponsoring Organization**

New Mexico Community Data Collaborative

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

Two conflicting statutes are impeding the flow of health care professional workforce data to the public and creating a serious barrier to detailed analysis of community level health care resources. Proposal is to Alter the Health Care Work Force Data Collection, Analysis and Policy Act, 24-14C(Section 5-E of HB19 - 2012R) so as to remove the conflict with the long standing NMAC Medical Board Rules (NMAC 16.10.01 Section 9), so that professional business address is public record.

## **Background**

NMAC 16.10.1.9 designates health care professional name, date of birth, business address, business telephone, and gender as Public Information. In apparent contradiction, the Health Care Work Force Data Collection, Analysis and Policy Act, 24-14C-5E stipulates that all responses to the required question on the licensing renewal form are confidential. 16 organizations, including non-governmental organizations and state agencies, have approached the New Mexico Community Data Collaborative about getting access to this data. It would allow researchers to conduct analysis and create interactive maps with each clinic or provider location along with the number and types of professionals at each, hours and types of service, populations served, health plans accepted, phone numbers, other info, etc. Eventually, these resource measures could be incorporated with others to create neighborhood health service quality indices that can be compared and contrasted with social determinants of health, risk indices, educational indices, and more.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Still in planning/discussion phase

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Members of the New Mexico Community Data Collaborative

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

Send action alerts to membership/email lists; Sign on to endorsement letters; Educate public health advocates on the need to facilitate access to public data paid for with tax payer funds.

## **Contact Information**

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comsalud@netscape.net  
[nmcdc.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html](http://nmcdc.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html)

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## Sponsoring Organization

Complete Streets New Mexico

## Description of Proposed Legislation

Our proposed memorial honors the leadership and accomplishments by local and tribal governments, agencies, and team members committed to the safety of our roadways' users in promoting and implementing complete streets statewide. And, the NM Complete Streets Leadership Team in collaboration with the Secretaries of Transportation and Health request statewide transportation policies (by the end of calendar year 2019) that support complete streets policies supported by the US Department Of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

## Background

Complete Streets approaches to address transportation needs and improvements should be a high priority for New Mexico legislators. In 2014 New Mexico had the highest rate of pedestrian deaths (3.55 per 100,000; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration), more than twice the U.S. rate. These preventable deaths underscore the urgency of Complete Streets policy for New Mexico's underserved communities. Complete Streets is an approach to ensure streets are designed, operated, and maintained for convenient and safe access and travel for all users regardless of their mode of transportation. It is imperative that transportation and public health be high priorities in the upcoming 2017 NM legislative session. In 2013, New Mexico legislators approved a memorial to recognize "Complete Streets Day", an effective first step. A reasonable next step is to pursue more substantive Complete Streets legislation for rural New Mexico, for example, legislation that would mandate the creation of an advisory committee as well as a street connectivity for all transportation modes.

## Where is this issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase; Bill drafted, sponsored by Senator Cisco McSorley

## Who will lobby for this legislation?

AARP

## Other organizations working to support this legislation

Smart Growth America, AARP, NMPHA

## Support sought from NMPHA

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

## Contact Information

Amy Bell, Kelly Gallagher, Erick Aune, Sharon Hausam  
505-212-9126  
amy@groundworkstudio.com  
completestreetsnm.org

## **Sponsoring Organization**

NM Alliance for School-Based Health Care

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

No specific legislation is being proposed. NMASBHC advocates to maintain current local, state and federal funding levels for NM school-based health centers (SBHCs); supports policy decisions and legislation that protect, promote and sustain existing NM SBHCs; and supports, as appropriate, policy decisions and legislation for programs and issues that promote student health and educational success. Additional funding is needed to support SBHCs.

## **Background**

Despite increases in SBHC funding over a 3-year period, funding has not returned to pre - recession levels. Funding for SBHCs has been reduced in the past two legislative sessions (including the special session) and, once again, some SBHCs have been closed. For other SBHCs, their hours of service will be reduced with additional funding cuts. New Mexico SBHCs are a key component of the New Mexico health care delivery system. SBHCs offer youth-friendly preventive services and provide students access to the health care they need in a place they trust and is convenient to them, so they can stay in class, ready to learn. SBHCs provide crucial health and behavioral health services to children and youth at school and can increase students' access to health care. Nearly 30,000 New Mexico students have access to a SBHC in frontier, rural, reservation, urban and suburban SBHCs can have a positive effect on those students' health-risk behaviors, health outcomes, and academic performance; can improve school attendance; and can reduce student discipline referrals. In addition, SBHC services can reduce overall health care costs. Services provided include well - child checks, injury prevention, immunizations, substance abuse screening and counseling, behavioral health screening and treatment, dental screenings and varnishes, case management, health education, and reproductive health services. SBHCs show a proven \$7.01 return on investment! SBHCs improve outcomes and reduce long-term costs. FUNDING FROM NMDOH IS CRITICAL FOR SBHC SPONSORS TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES TO NEW MEXICO CHILDREN.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Presented to interim committees

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Linda Siegle, NMASBHC volunteers

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Nancy Rodriguez  
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nancyrodigueznmashbc@gmail.com  
www.nmasbhc.org

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## **Sponsoring Organization**

New Mexico Compassion and Choices

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

A coalition of organizations and individuals will be submitting a bill to establish Aid in Dying (AID) as a legal practice in NM whereby terminally ill, competent adults may request a lethal prescription from a willing provider in order to control the timing and circumstances of their inevitable death. This law will be similar to those already implemented in Oregon, Washington, Vermont, California and Montana.

## **Background**

As baby boomers age many wish to have more control over their choices at the end of life to ensure that they have the kind of death they seek. Although the numbers who utilize this choice are small, the impacts of its implementation are positive from a public health perspective with earlier hospice, more palliative care and better coordination between the social service and health care sectors.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Still in planning/discussion phase; Presented to interim committees; A bill is currently being developed for the 2017 session

## **Legislation's sponsor**

Several representatives and one Senator have expressed interest

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Compassion and Choices, the ACLU, and many individual citizen advocates will be supporting this bill.

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Barak Wolff  
505-988-2333  
barakwolff@msn.com

## **Sponsoring Organization**

NM Food and Agriculture Policy Council - Farm to Table

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

This request for \$1.44 million would provide as many as 343,000 school students statewide with NM grown fresh fruits and vegetables; ensuring NM's school meals programs have the budget needed to meet new federal requirements increases in fruits and vegetables in the school meal program. The purchase on NM grown produce will enhance the diets of school children, promote healthier lifestyles, and increase academic achievement. This is economic development for New Mexico's farming families and provides healthy options for children.

## **Background**

This legislation has been introduced and built on since 2007. Currently there is \$250,000 administered by the NM Public Education Department for statewide use. An additional \$85,000 recurring is administered by the NM Department of Agriculture specific to the Valley Cluster schools in Albuquerque. The impact will assist schools with the increased fruit and vegetable costs and will benefit NM farmers economically. Almost all 218 School Food Authorities have purchased NM grown produce since the school year started in August (up from 60 last year). About 30 farmers participate in the program, which provides economic opportunities for farmers across NM.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Bill drafted; Presented to interim committees; Requested appropriation

## **Legislation's sponsor**

Senator Ortiz y Pino

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Pam Roy, Farm to Table

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council and participating organizations and agencies New Mexico School Nutrition Association Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) NM Farmers Marketing Association NM Academy of Dietetics Community Outreach Patient Empowerment (COPE - Navajo Nation) Cooking with Kids.

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Pam Roy  
505-660-8403  
pam@farmtotablenm.org  
www.farmtotablenm.org



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## Sponsoring Organization

Ojo Sarco Community Center and Picuris-Penasco Community Coalition

## Description of Proposed Legislation

Circle of Love for New Mexico Children – circle the Roundhouse to support programs for children and families.

## Background

This started as a group of frustrated grandmothers and mothers talked about doing something at the Legislature to show that we are tired of cuts to programs for children and families. As we brainstormed the idea of circling the Roundhouse was appealing. While not at this time seeking specific legislation we do not want the poorest of the poor to continue to be hurt by bad ideas to balance the NM budget. We oppose further Medicaid cuts and the Governor's plan to add co-pays which studies show actually drive up Medicaid costs through delayed care or failure to fill Rx.

## Where is this issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase

## Other organizations working to support this legislation?

Organizing has just begun and more organizational support is anticipated. To date Ojo Sarco Community Center, Picuris-Penasco Community Coalition, and La Tierra Montessori School (at Ohkay Owinghe) have signed on.

## Support sought from NMPHA

Send action alerts to membership/email lists; People, lots of people, to come and encircle the Roundhouse on Valentines Day to make a Circle of Love for New Mexico Children.

## Contact Information

Carol Miller

505-660-5988

carolmiller@newmexico.com

[www.facebook.com/Circle-of-Love-for-New-Mexico-Children-633437826859907/](http://www.facebook.com/Circle-of-Love-for-New-Mexico-Children-633437826859907/)

## **Sponsoring Organization**

Prosperity Works

## **Description of Proposed Legislation**

- 1- 36% cap rate on all non bank lending
- 2- Remove asset tests from all state benefits
- 3- Prevent the use of credit information as a primary screen in employment

## **Background**

- 1-Predatory Lending is harming our most financially vulnerable families and must be stopped
- 2-It is costly, unnecessary and burdensome to verify asset level for families seeking benefits
- 3-People of color and low income people have little opportunity to build credit and are being shut out of employment opportunities because they have low or no credit histories.

## **Where is this issue in the legislative process?**

Bill drafted

## **Legislation's sponsor**

Javier Martinez for #1 and #3

## **Who will lobby for this legislation?**

Several individuals and organizations

## **Other organizations working to support this legislation**

La Red del Rio Abajo (Coalition of 11 organizations in the South Valley) Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, ABQ Peace Center

## **Support sought from NMPHA**

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

## **Contact Information**

Ona Porter  
505 217-2747  
ona@prosperityworks.net  
prosperityworks.net

### Sponsoring Organization

Transgender Resource Center of NM and EQNM

### Description of Proposed Legislation

This legislation will modernize the current correction and amendment of vital records statute by removing the surgical procedure requirement when requesting a change to sex designation on a birth certificate. It will also remove the requirement that the new birth certificate be marked "amended." Lastly, the legislation will amend the notice by publication requirement of the name change statute.

### Background

The current correction and amendment of vital records statute requires that in order to change one's sex designation on a birth certificate, one must have a surgical procedure changing one's sex. The requirement is antiquated and is not in alignment with contemporary medical standards in the treatment of gender dysphoria. Many transgender and gender non-conforming people do not want or cannot access surgical procedures in their transition. Though a person may have transitioned, state law does not currently recognize them as having standing to change their sex on a birth certificate unless there has been a surgical procedure. When a person petitions the court for a name change, they are required to publish a legal notice of the action in a newspaper for 2 weeks. For transgender/gender non-conforming people as well as for domestic violence/sexual assault victims, this process can place them in danger. Though the statute allows for an exception if the notice will jeopardize the person's safety, the person must petition the court for this allowance which is an extra burden on someone who may already be traumatized by proceeding with a legal name change in court. Additionally, the purpose behind publication has been supplanted with the internet. Tracking of individuals for debt recovery or in criminal matters is done using a social security number and the internet. Many other states have changed their laws in both of these areas in order to modernize and to create non discriminatory processes.

### Where is this issue in the legislative process?

The bill is in the process of being drafted

### Who will lobby for this legislation?

Linda Siegle for EQNM.

### Support sought from NMPHA

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

### Contact Information

Shari Weinstein  
505-577-6243  
shari@tgrcnm.org  
www.tgrcnm.org