New Mexico Public Health Association
10th Annual Health Policy Legislative Forum

A Decade of Health Policy

Wednesday, December 4th, 2013
Embassy Suites Hotel
Albuquerque, NM

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS
for the
2014 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE
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 10th Annual Health Policy Legislative Forum. 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.
1. Add Dental Therapists as Mid-Level Providers
   Pamela Blackwell and Barbara Webber, Health Action New Mexico

2. Mental Health Counselors to Provider List (introduced last year as HB208)
   Sheila Lewis, Santa Fe CCRC

3. Appropriations for Domestic/Sexual Violence Prevention, Services, and Training
   Sheila Lewis Santa Fe CCRC

4. Community Health Worker Certificate Curriculum
   Daryl Smith and Christina Carrillo, NM CHW Advisory Council/NMDOH

5. Fair Copay for Chiropractic Care
   Dr. Michael Pridham, NM Chiropractic Association

6. Older Adult Fall Prevention
   Janet Popp, Beth Black, and Toby Rosenblatt
   The New Mexico Older Adult Fall Prevention Coalition

7. Addressing Institutional Racism
   Kay Bounkeua and Ray Baca, NM Health Equity Working Group

8. Men of Color Initiative Briefing
   Christopher Ramirez, Men of Color Initiative (MOCI)

9. New Mexico Produce for School Meals
   Pamela Roy and Alena Paisano,
   New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council and Farm to Table

10. Restore Funding to Community Health Councils
    Ron Hale and Dick Mason, NM Alliance of Health Councils

11. Restore Funding to School Based Health Centers
    Nancy Rodriguez, NM Alliance for School Based Health Care

12. Preserve & enhance the NM Vaccine for Children Universal Purchase Program
    Larry Shandler, NM Pediatric Society

13. Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome Memorial
    Mary Overpeck and Toby Rosenblatt

14. Working Group on the Development of the NM Health Care Workforce Memorial
    Dick Mason, Health Action New Mexico

15. Complete Streets in New Mexico Memorial
    Erin Marshall, New Mexico Healthier Weight Council
Add Dental Therapists as Mid-Level Providers

**Sponsoring Organization**
Health Action New Mexico

**Description of Proposed Legislation**
Adds Dental Therapists-hygienists as a mid-level dental provider under NM law. Improves access to dental services and the health of rural, tribal and undeserved New Mexicans. Answers NM rural and low-income communities’ call for (1) dental therapists from their communities, for their communities, (2) educated in NM, and (3) economic and career opportunities for their citizens. Allows dental hygienists to expand their scope and practice as dental therapists in underserved communities.

**Background**

**Access to Dental Providers: a Health Crisis for Rural, Tribal & Underserved NM.** NM is 39th worst in U.S. in number of dentists/1,000 people. NM dentists: 69% in metropolitan areas, 51% over age 55. Over 1.3 million in NM don’t have access, must wait months for care.

**Result:** Living in pain, missed school/work, medical emergencies, long-term health problems.

**Solution: Dental Therapists.** Dental providers under general supervision of off-site dentists provide high-quality, cost-effective dental services to underserved communities in 50 countries, Alaska and Minnesota. Dental therapists are from the community they serve; expand reach of dentists using telemedicine.

**Where is this proposal in the legislative process?**
Presented to interim committees
Bill drafted
Have sponsors—Sen. Benny Shendo & Rep. Dennis Roch (bipartisan, bicameral sponsorship)
Other—NM Dept. of Health report recommended dental therapists to address NM dental health access crisis

**Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?**
Health Action New Mexico

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?**
Over 50 organizations, tribal communities, New Mexico educational institutions, and key individuals

**What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?**
Send action alerts to membership/email lists
Sign on to endorsement letters
Tracking legislation

**Contact Information**
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Mental Health Counselors to Provider List

Sponsoring Organization
Santa Fe Coordinated Community Response Council

Description of Proposed Legislation
This bill was introduced last year as HB 208 by Rep. Miguel Garcia. It would have extended to mental health counselors and therapists the existing protections of Freedom of Choice of Provider (Section 59A-22-32 NMSA 1978). Current law provides individuals the freedom to select the hospital and practitioners who provide their care. This bill would add mental health counselors and therapists to the list of providers covered by the law. Adding these providers to the insurance code would facilitate the reimbursement of these services by insurance companies.

Inclusion of mental health counselors and therapists to the list of providers in the insurance code would have a positive and significant impact on over 3,000 qualified behavioral health practitioners in New Mexico. The bill protects an individual’s right to choose his or her provider by improving insurance reimbursement for these services. HB 208 was introduced by Rep. Garcia, Miguel (D) in 2013. It passed every House committee unopposed and passed the House 67-1. The bill passed the Senate Public Affairs Committee before running out of time. The CCRC has not spoken to the sponsor yet to see if he is still interested in this bill. Although this is not an appropriation bill, it should be germane because it deals with health insurance, which will be on the Governor’s call.

Where is this proposal in the legislative process?
In planning/discussion phase
Bill drafted
Have sponsor—Rep. Garcia, Miguel (D)

Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?
The CCRC does not lobby, although our director does actively advocate at the legislature.

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?
Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Provider member of CCRC will support this legislation. We believe members of NAMI in NM will also support this bill.

What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?
Send action alerts to members/email lists
Sign on to endorsement letters

Contact Information
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Appropriations for Domestic/Sexual Violence Prevention, Services, and Training

Sponsoring Organization
Santa Fe Coordinated Community Response Council

Description of Proposed Legislation
Three appropriation bills for domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, services and training were introduced last year and all three died in committee. The first would have appropriated $4 million from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families (CYFD) for the purpose of contracting with a statewide entity to provide leadership, training, and support for programs assisting victims and survivors of domestic violence. The second and third bills would have appropriated $1 million each to the Human Services Department (HSD) and NM DOH for sexual assault-related services, community education, and prevention.

Background
The budgets of all three agencies need to be increased this year in order to respond effectively to the ongoing problem of sexual assault and domestic violence in New Mexico. The final decisions concerning the amounts requested for each agency in this year’s budget will be decided by the sponsor.

Where is this proposal in the legislative process?
Still in planning/discussion phase

Have sponsor—Sen. Linda Lopez sponsored the three appropriation bills in the last session, and we anticipate that she will submit similar bills this year.

Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?
The CCRC does not lobby, although our director does actively advocate at the legislature.

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?
Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Provider member of CCRC will support this legislation. We believe members of NAMI in NM will also support this bill.

What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?
Sent action alerts to membership/email lists
Sign on to endorsement letters

Contact Information
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Community Health Workers Certificate Curriculum

Sponsoring Organization

NM Community Health Workers (CHW) Advisory Council/NM DOH

Description of Proposed Legislation

NM Governor Martinez recently announced a proposal to create a statewide training and voluntary certification program for community health workers as part of her economic development proposal for the 2014 legislative session, which includes increasing New Mexico’s health care workforce. Under this proposal, services provided by community health workers would be eligible for reimbursements from Medicaid. CHW certification would be administered through the New Mexico Department of Health.

Background

This movement started with CHW advocates prompting the passing of Senate Joint Memorial 076 in 2003. The NM CHW Advisory Council was formed by NM DOH in 2006 and in 2008 created an Office of Community Health Workers to develop a statewide standardized core competency based CHW curriculum and associated voluntary certification program.

Where is this proposal in the legislative process?

In planning/discussion phase

Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?

Undetermined at this time

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

Multiple partners, including community health workers, tribal community health reps, promotores, educators, NM Health and Human Services Department, NM Aging and Long Term Services, among others

What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send action alerts to members/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

Tracking legislation

Contact Information

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Fair Copay for Chiropractic Care

Sponsoring Organization
New Mexico Chiropractic Association

Description of Proposed Legislation
“The Fair Copay Bill For Chiropractic Medicine, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy” would increase patient access to these valuable services by making the copay equal to that of a primary care physician.

Background
Extremely high copayments are being charged to patients for evidence-based conservative treatments such as chiropractic medicine, physical therapy and occupational therapy. Insurance companies are claiming to provide these services while they pass all or most of the payments on to the patients through expensive copays creating a “phantom benefit”. Increased patient access has been shown to decrease the use of opioid medications.

Where is this proposal in the legislative process?
In planning/discussion phase
Presented to interim committees—Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
Bill drafted
Have sponsor—Senator Bill O’Neil

Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?
NMCA, NMPTA, NMOTA

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?
NMCA, NMPTA, NMOTA

What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?
Sent action alerts to membership/email lists
Sign on to endorsement letters

Contact Information
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Older Adult Fall Prevention

*Sponsoring Organization*

New Mexico Older Adult Fall Prevention Coalition

*Description of Proposed Legislation*

Appropriate $1M to:

a) Establish a DOH staff person to coordinate fall prevention activity statewide
b) Develop a public and health care provider public awareness campaign about modifiable fall risk factors
c) Disseminate evidence-based fall prevention programming statewide

*Background*

House Joint Memorial 32 was passed during the 2013 legislative session. It directed the Department of Health to convene an Older Adult Falls Task Force to evaluate NM’s approaches to community-based fall prevention and to develop strategies for change. The task force carried out its charge and submitted its report.

*Where is this proposal in the legislative process?*

Still in planning/discussion phase; The Report of the Task Force has been presented to the Interim Health and Human Services Committee

*Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?*

The New Mexico Older Adult Fall Prevention Coalition and Executive Committee

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

Interested organizations are being sought

*What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?*

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

Sign on to endorsement letters

*Contact Information*

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Addressing Institutional Racism

*Sponsoring Organization*
New Mexico Health Equity Working Group

*Description of Proposed Legislation*
In order to adequately reduce health disparities in New Mexico, we need to improve health equity. In order to improve health equity in New Mexico, we need to address racism. We have decided to address *institutional* racism legislatively. NM Health Equity Working Group will be hosting Anti-Racism Day at the Roundhouse on February 7th from 1:30-3:30pm in the Rotunda.

*Background*
Senate Memorial 33 was passed during the 2011 Legislative Session. SM33 recommends that all entities receiving public funding examine their anti-racism policies. This Memorial has been used by several entities, including Albuquerque Public Schools and Families United for Education to strengthen their own policies. An anti-Institutional Racism Bill was introduced in 2012 but died for lack of hearing in the Senate Finance Committee.

*Where is this proposal in the legislative process?*
Still in planning/discussion phase

*Have sponsor: Senator Linda Lopez*

*Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?*
New Mexico Health Equity Working Group, New Mexico Asian Family Center

*What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?*
New Mexico Asian Family Center, BC Place Matters Team, Partnership for Community Action, and New Mexico Forum for Youth

*What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?*
Send Action alerts to membership/email lists (Notification)
Sign on to endorsement letters (Endorsement)
Tracking legislation

*Contact Information*
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Men of Color Initiative Briefing

Sponsoring Organization

Men of Color Initiative (MOCI)

Description of Proposed Legislation

The UNM Men of Color Initiative (MOCI) and Strong Families New Mexico are co-hosting a legislative briefing about boys and men of color in New Mexico for legislators and other decision-makers in February 2014 in Santa Fe. Both the limited disaggregated, quantitative data for criminal justice, education, employment and health and the stories of boys and men of color in New Mexico show that institutional and structural racism are impacting the lives of boys and men of color. By promoting better data collection and policies with outcomes that build strong boys and men of color, we can build stronger families and communities in NM.

Background

Since 2011 MOCI, a project of the Division for Equity and Inclusion and Office of Student Academic Success is a community-based research project that is led by African American/Black, American Indian/Native, Hispanic/Latino and other male students of color, has been working to increase access and success for men of color at UNM and the educational pipeline. Strong Families New Mexico is a project of Forward Together. Starting in 2012, MOCI has been working with Strong Families to promote legislative policies and community organizing that promotes strong boys and men of color.

Where is this proposal in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase

Other: This year, we will only be hosting a legislative briefing

Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?

MOCI is working with Strong Families New Mexico and Adriann Barboa

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

MOCI is currently working with more than 50 campus and community partners on this legislation and other activities.

What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?

Send Action alerts to membership/email lists
Sign on to endorsement letters
Other: Encourage legislators to attend the briefing

Contact Information

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New Mexico Produce for School Meals

*Sponsoring Organization*
New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council

*Description of Proposed Legislation*
New Mexico Grown Produce for School Meals is an appropriation request for $1.44 million to provide more than 300,000 school-aged children across the state with NM grown fresh fruits and vegetables. This will help school districts increase the purchase of locally grown foods, help meet new federal dietary requirements for school meals, and incorporate Farm to School educational program into classrooms and cafeterias. This is also a significant opportunity for economic growth across the state for small to medium size farmers; it will help support farming families, grow new farmers, and support current farmers to secure new markets.

*Background*
New Mexico Grown Produce for School Meals is a funding investment to:

1) Purchase New Mexico grown, fresh from the farm, fruits and vegetables to provide students with school meals that will encourage healthy eating habits which will impact their relationship with food and health for the rest of their lives.

2) Augment school nutrition programs by providing more locally grown fruits and vegetables

*Where is this proposal in the legislative process?*
Bill drafted, Presented to interim committees
Requested appropriation
Have sponsors: Senator Pete Campos, Representative Donald Tripp
Other: Received non-occurring funding of $100,000 during the 2013

*Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?*
NM Food and Agriculture Policy Council, Pamela Roy, Clark deScweintez, Alena Paisano

*What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?*
NM Student Nutrition Association, Human Services Department Food and Nutrition Services (FANS) Bureau USDA Donated Foods Program, NM State University Cooperative Extension Service, NM Dept. of Agriculture

*What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?*
Sign on to endorsement letters
Tracking legislation

*Contact Information*
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Restore Funding to Community Health Councils

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. Restoration of $900,000 is being sought in 2014 for local staff support to enable health councils to reach their full potential as essential parts of the state’s public health system.

Background
The health councils have successfully developed programs, policies, and partnerships in their communities, addressing locally-identified health needs and priorities, such as substance abuse, teen pregnancy, access to care, obesity and diabetes, interpersonal violence, emergency preparedness, and many others. New Mexico’s health councils are a cost-effective way of improving our state’s health, with exceptional return on investment, attracting up to an additional $4 for every $1 in state funding. New Mexico is one of a handful of states with a centralized public health system (instead of a system of local & county-based health offices), resulting in a critical need for local community assessment, planning, and community action.

Where is this proposal in the legislative process?
Presented to interim committees (LHHS)
Bill Drafted
Requested Appropriation
Have Sponsor: Rep. Don Tripp

Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?
No.

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?
Farm to Table and others

What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?
Send action alerts to membership/email lists
Sign on to endorsement letters
Tracking legislation

Contact Information
Ron Hale, Dick Mason
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Restore Funding to School Based Health Centers

Sponsoring Organization
New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care

Description of Proposed Legislation
The New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care (NMASBHC) is collaborating with a number of state legislators to advocate for the addition of one million dollars to the Department of Health’s FY 2015 budget to restore funding for School Based Health Centers that has been lost since 2009. NMASBHC also is proposing that an additional one million dollars (for a total of two million) be added to expand the number of hours that SBHCs in the state can be open to serve the growing need for healthcare for children and adolescents, particularly in the Medicaid-served population.

Background
There are more than eighty School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in the state that are a critical part of the healthcare delivery system. As Medicaid expansion and the Affordable Care Act implementation take place, there will be a growing need for sources of precisely the kind of efficient, integrated, preventive care that SBHCs provide. Unfortunately, decreased levels of funding in the state budget have led to decreased numbers of service hours available through SBHCs. Simultaneously, New Mexico is 50th in child well-being indicators. Given these facts, NMASBHC is advocating for a restoration and expansion of funding for SBHCs.

Where is this proposal in the legislative process?
Still in planning/discussion phase
Presented to interim committees
Bill drafted—similar restoration funding was carried forward by Sen. L. Lopez in the last session but not funded
Have sponsor: Senator L. Lopez has agreed to sponsor and other co-sponsors are being discussed

Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?
Staff and Board will be lobbying as well as the paid lobbyist for the organization, Linda Siegle.

What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?
There is a coalition of agencies rallying around the “NM Kids are Counting on Us” policy agenda who will be supporting this legislation, including the NM Forum for Youth in Community and NM Voices for Children

What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?
Send action alerts to membership/email lists
Sign on to endorsement letters
Tracking legislation

Contact Information
Nancy Rodriguez, Executive Director
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www.nmasbhc.org
Preserve and Enhance the NM Vaccine for Children Universal Purchase Program

**Sponsoring Organization**
New Mexico Pediatric Society

**Description of Proposed Legislation**

The New Mexico Vaccine for Children Universal Purchase has two aspects. The federal VFC portion provides funding for the purchase and distribution of vaccine for Native American children, children covered by Medicaid and uninsured children. The state purchase VFC portion allows the state to purchase and distribute vaccine for all other children. The state should recover from the private insurance carriers the cost of this vaccine. The NM Department of Health (DOH) has not been efficient in recovering the costs of these state purchased vaccines.

**Background**

Immunization of children to prevent infectious disease (and now certain cancers) is one of the most significant child health advances of the twentieth century. New Mexico utilizing a state wide system, the New Mexico Vaccine for Children (VFC) Universal Purchase Program to purchase and distribute childhood vaccines has achieved high immunization rates. Our immunization rates are one, if not the only, child health indicator that is not at the bottom of national list of child health indicators. As private insurance carriers, Medicaid and Medicare move away from paying medical providers on a “fee for service” basis, measures of Child Health will become even more important for insurers, providers and state and federal government.

Where is this proposal in the legislative process?

Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?

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

What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?

**Contact Information**

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Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome Task Force Memorial

**Sponsoring Organization**
Mary Overpeck, DrPH

**Description of Proposed Legislation**
A memorial is requesting that the New Mexico Department of Health establish a Task Force to evaluate New Mexico’s current status and approaches to prevention of sudden unexpected infant deaths and to develop strategies for effective change. The resulting report, including prevention recommendations, would be submitted to the Interim Legislative Health and Human Services Committee by November, 2014.

**Background**
New Mexico has approximately 35 Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID) annually. The vast majority of these deaths are preventable, primarily by improving infant sleep arrangements.

**Where is this proposal in the legislative process?**
- Still in planning/discussion phase
- Bill Drafted

**Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?**
Mary Overpeck, DrPH, who is seeking organizations with which to partner

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?**
Interested organizations are being sought. NM DOH is providing technical assistance in commenting on drafts of a memorial to which it could be appropriately responsive.

**What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?**
Sign on to endorsement letters

**Contact Information**
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**Working Group on the Development of the NM Health Care Workforce Memorial**

*Sponsoring Organization*
Health Action New Mexico

*Description of Proposed Legislation*
Senate Joint Memorial to create a Working Group on the Development of the New Mexico Health Care Workforce

*Background*
The Affordable Care Act has the potential to provide health insurance coverage to as many as 300,000 more New Mexicans. In addition, by 2030 over 30% of New Mexicans will be over 60 years of age. These two factors will exacerbate the existing shortage of health care providers in New Mexico.

*Where is this proposal in the legislative process?*
Presented to interim committee  
Bill drafted  
Have sponsor: Senator Jacob Candelaria

*Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?*
Health Action New Mexico

*What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?*
None at this time

*What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?*
Send action alerts to membership/email lists  
Sign on to endorsement letters

*Contact Information*
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Complete Streets in New Mexico Memorial

_Sponsoring Organization_
New Mexico Healthier Weight Council

_Description of Proposed Legislation_
Complete Streets in New Mexico memorial recognizing that vehicular, public transportation, bicycle, and pedestrian modes are integral to the NM transportation system and all transportation projects are opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers which in turn compliment studies that demonstrate that people with access to safe places to walk, cycle and use transit will use such facilities, and that these people are more likely to meet recommended daily activity levels. This memorial would provide support to the department of transportation long term planning process to include health concerns in addition to safety concerns in development of the Statewide Long Term Multimodal Transportation Plan.

_Background_
Complete streets provide opportunities for increased physical activity via active transportation by incorporating features that promote regular walking, cycling and transit use which have been shown to reduce obesity and associated health risks. The department of transportation is seeking to include health concerns within its planning process and this memorial will provide direction and support to such ends.

_Where is this proposal in the legislative process?_
Still in planning/discussion phase
Bill drafted
Have sponsor: Senator Cisco McSorley
Other: Day at the Legislature planned Feb 11, 2014 with a press conference at 10 am in the Capitol Rotunda

_Is there someone who will lobby for you on this initiative?_
Community advocates, members of the Complete Streets Leadership Team—no paid lobbyists

_What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?_
Many of the nonprofit and business members of the Complete Streets Leadership Team

_What level(s) of support are you seeking from NMPHA or other organizations?_
Send action alerts to membership/email lists
Sign on to endorsement letters

_Contact Information_
Erin Marshall
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