



New Mexico Public Health Association

9th Annual Health Policy Legislative Forum

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS *for the* **2013 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE**

Health Equity in New Mexico: A Policy Perspective

December 6, 2012

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PROPOSAL INFORMATION*Sponsoring Organization:*

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Description of proposed legislation:

Smokeless tobacco and cigars are dangerous and deadly! Adolescents who use smokeless tobacco are more likely to become cigarette smokers and smokeless tobacco causes cancer. New Mexico can protect kids by closing a deadly tax loophole that keeps candy and fruit flavored tobacco products low priced and more accessible to kids. Equalizing the tax on tobacco products with the cigarette tax rate will close the tax loophole, generate nearly \$6 million, and save lives.

Background:

While cigarette use continues to decline in New Mexico, the use of non-cigarette tobacco products has increased among youth. Candy and fruit flavored cigars and smokeless tobacco cause cancer and appeal to kids. As with cigarettes, raising the price of other tobacco products through state tax increases or other means will prompt a reduction in tobacco use, especially among adolescents and young adults. The intent of the bill is to eliminate the large discrepancy between the current New Mexico taxes charged on cigarettes and the taxes charged on all other tobacco products, including dip, chew, loose tobacco, cigars, and snuff.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase

Presented to interim committees

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes

Sandra Adondakis and Linda Siegle, ACS CAN

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

The American Lung Association

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

Sign on to endorsement letters

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Sandra Adondakis

Organization: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Email: sandra.adondakis@cancer.org

Telephone: 505-382-2280

Website: acscan.org/nm

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

Drug Policy Alliance

Description of proposed legislation:

Legislation has been drafted to decrease penalties associated with marijuana possession in order to reduce harmful collateral consequences associated with arrest, prosecution, and incarceration such as: loss of income; difficulty obtaining employment; family disruption and mental health stressors; and access to public benefits such as food, housing, and healthcare.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase

Presented to interim committees

Bill drafted

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, Dave Schmidt and Drug Policy Alliance staff

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

We are in the process of soliciting support from organizations. Women's Justice Project has endorsed.

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

Sign on to endorsement letters

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Emily Kaltenbach

Organization: Drug Policy Alliance

Email: ekaltenbach@drugpolicy.org

Telephone: 505-920-5256

Website: www.drugpolicy.org

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

Health Action New Mexico

Description of proposed legislation:

Adds Dental Therapists as a mid-level dental provider under the NM Dental Practice Act. Improves access to dental services and the health of rural, tribal and underserved New Mexicans. Answers NM rural and low-income communities' call for (1) dental therapists from their communities, for their communities, and (2) economic and career opportunities for their citizens.

Background:

Access to Dental Providers: a Health Crisis for Rural, Tribal Underserved NM. NM is ranked 49th in U.S. in number of dentists per 1,000 people. NM dentists: 69% in metropolitan areas, 30% over age 60. Thousands in NM do not have access, must wait months for care. Result: Living in pain, missed school/work, medical emergencies, long-term health problems. Solution: Dental Therapists. Studies show that dental therapists, 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 the issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase

Presented to interim committees

Bill drafted

Seeking additional sponsors and cosponsors. Introduced legislation in 2011 NM Legislative Session (HB 495)

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, Health Action New Mexico

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

New Mexico Health Resources, Union County Health Wellness Network, Pueblo of Kewa/Santo Domingo Health Board, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Native American Professional Parent Resources, Inc., AARP New Mexico, New Mexico Telehealth Alliance, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, Native Health Initiative, Des Moines School Health Advisory Council, NM Youth Development, Inc. (YDI) Elev8NM, Southwest Women's Law Center, NM League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of New Mexico.

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Pamela K. Blackwell

Organization: Health Action New Mexico

Email: pamelakblackwell@gmail.com

Telephone: 505-508-2768

Website: www.healthactionnm.org

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

Health Care For All Coalition

Description of proposed legislation:

The Medicaid Opportunity: expand access to health coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by extending Medicaid eligibility for adults to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Background:

The ACA requires states to expand Medicaid eligibility for adults to 138% FPL. But the Supreme Court's July decision essentially converted this mandatory expansion into a choice for states. New Mexico can save lives, reduce poverty and create jobs -- plus realize financial gain for the state's general fund. This bill would direct the state to fully expand Medicaid eligibility according to the ACA.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, Members of the Health Care For All Coalition

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

See above

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

Lobbying, informational, media, endorsement and other support

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Kelsey McCowan Heilman
 Organization: New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
 Email: kelsey@nmpovertylaw.org
 Telephone: 505-255-2840
 Website: www.nmpovertylaw.org

PROPOSAL INFORMATION*Sponsoring Organization:*

Invest in Kids NOW! Coalition c/o New Mexico Voices for Children

Description of proposed legislation:

A joint resolution asks legislators to pass a constitutional amendment question to voters - to distribute an additional 1.5% of the Land Grant Permanent fund for early learning services. It also preserves funding for K-12 and other beneficiaries (prevents lowering the current 5.5% distribution to 5.0%). Accountability measures include an audit and evaluation. Early learning services include home visiting, quality child care, Pre-K and professional development, and can be provided through contracts with private entities.

Background:

Making sure every child has access to quality early childhood care and education is one of the best things we can do to improve our children's educational outcomes, thus building a stronger workforce and economy.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Bill drafted

Sponsor: Sen. Michael Sanchez

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, Veronica C. Garcia, Ed.D.

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

Invest in Kids NOW! Coalition has 34 member organizations who have also signed on as endorsers

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

Provide lobbying support if possible

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Myra Segal

Organization: NM Voices for Children

Email: msegal@nmvoices.org

Telephone: 505-244-9505 ext. 19

Website: <http://investinkidsnow.org/>

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

NM Alliance for School-Based Health Centers

Description of proposed legislation:

Restore funds for school-based health centers (SBHCs) through advocating for the state's acceptance of federal Medicaid expansion funds and through approving legislation to increase funding to SBHCs.

Background:

The NM SBHC program has suffered \$910,000 in budget reductions (state general fund and Medicaid match) in the past four years, seriously affecting SBHCs' ability to provide much needed services. SBHCs provide critical physical and behavioral health services to children and youth, and can eliminate barriers to students' access to health services and to their academic success. These funding reductions have occurred while demand for services is increasing.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase

Presented to interim committees

Bill drafted

Sponsor: Mary Kay Papen (for behavioral health bill)

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes

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

YDI-Elev8, NM Coalition of School Administrators

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

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Beth Hamilton

Organization: NM Alliance for School-Based Health Centers

Email: beth@nmasbhc.org

Telephone: 505-798-6973

Website: www.nmasbhc.org

PROPOSAL INFORMATION*Sponsoring Organization:*

NM Voices for Children and NM Center on Law and Poverty

Description of proposed legislation:

Proposal: An appropriation to the Human Services Department in the amount of approximately \$5 million for two related purposes in Fiscal Year 2014: (1) strengthen Medicaid enrollment and outreach program activities and (2) pay the non-federal share of a Navigator program for the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange.

Background:

The State needs more outreach activity to enroll the tens of thousands of remaining children who are eligible for but not enrolled in Medicaid. If the State adopts the Medicaid Opportunity, it will need eligibility and enrollment staff to handle tens of thousands of applicants. Closely related, the State is required to have a Navigator program for its Health Insurance Exchange, but the on-going costs cannot be covered with federal funds. A portion of these funds will cover those costs before the Exchange is generating its own income.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes

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

TBA

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

Other: All of the first three on the list

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Nick Estes
 Organization: New Mexico Voices of Children
 Email: nestes@nmvoices.org
 Telephone: 505-850-0197
 Website: nmvoices.org

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils (NMAHC)

Description of proposed legislation:

The legislation would add \$1.1 million to the Department of Health budget for the purpose of contracting with County Tribal Health Councils to perform Community Health Assessments.

Background:

In May of 2010, the 36 County and Tribal Health Councils were informed that the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) was eliminating funding for health councils. The total cut was \$2.8 million, with \$1.9 million for contracting with health councils to conduct Community Health Profiles and develop Community Health Improvement Plans. Health Councils have played a major role in coordinating services in the counties and tribal areas they serve. Studies have shown that health councils have raised 3.7 dollars for every dollar provided by the state. The elimination of health councils has left a huge hole in the public health infrastructure of New Mexico. The cuts will have a negative effect upon the people of New Mexico and will end up costing the state more in the long run. NMAHC would appreciate your support in restoring \$1.1 million to the DOH budget to help fund health councils.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Bill drafted

Sponsor: Rep. Don Tripp

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, Dick Mason

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Richard Mason

Organization: New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils

Email: polirich@aol.com

Telephone: 505-239-3804

Website: none at this time

PROPOSAL INFORMATION*Sponsoring Organization:*

New Mexico Chiropractic Association

Description of proposed legislation:

An insurer shall not impose a copayment, coinsurance, or office visit deductible amount charged to the insured for services rendered for each date of service by a chiropractic physician, physical therapist, DOM, OT, LMT, naprapath licensed in New Mexico that is greater than the copayment, coinsurance, or office visit deductible amount charged to the insured for the services of a primary care physician, primary care nurse practitioner or a primary care osteopath licensed in New Mexico for an office visit. (2) An insurer shall state clearly the availability of chiropractic, physical therapy, acupuncture, and other coverage under its plan and all related limitations, conditions, and exclusions.

Background:

With most current insurance plans, when a patient visits a health care provider, a copayment or copay is required and usually does not contribute toward any policy out-of-pocket maximums whereas coinsurance payments do. The copay is usually a small portion of the actual cost of the health care provider visit and is in place to prevent a patient from seeking health care that may not be necessary. The underlying philosophy is that without copayment, a person will consume much more care than they otherwise would if paying for all or a small portion. As much as a copay may assist with preventing over-utilization and keeping health care premiums down, conversely a copay may be discouraging a patient from seeking necessary or urgent health care services.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, Linda Siegle and other association lobbyists

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

We would like to work with the other associations mentioned above and other advocacy groups

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

Sign on to endorsement letters

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Dr. Michael Pridham, DC-APC
 Organization: New Mexico Chiropractic Association
 Email: Michael@DrPridham.com
 Telephone: 505-872-1900
 Website: <http://www.nmchiro.org/>

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

New Mexico Health Equity Working Group / BC Place Matters Team

Description of proposed legislation:

Senator Keller has introduced several HIA bills, requiring the Legislative Finance Committee to include community health impact assessments in the evaluation of pending legislation. An HIA bill will be introduced this year in the House.

Background:

To change NM's unacceptable health disparities, we must address policies that create inequitable social/economic conditions that cause poor health in the first place. Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a comprehensive tool to assess the potential health impact of policies, procedures, and practices and specifically how these affect the health of low-income and minority populations. BCPMT and the NMHEWG have conducted several HIAs and the Santa Fe Community Foundation received Kellogg funding to train people in HIA procedures and to implement several HIAs. Senator Tim Keller introduced HIA bills in 2009 and in 2010. This year he will cosponsor an HIA bill.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Bill drafted

Sponsor: Sen. Tim Keller

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

No

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

BCPMT, NMHEWG

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

Send action alerts to membership/email lists

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Kristine Suozzi

Organization: NMHEWG, BCPMT

Email: kosuozzi@yahoo.com

Telephone: 505-266-1421

Website: bcplacematters.org; nmhealthequity.org

PROPOSAL INFORMATION*Sponsoring Organization:*

New Mexico Network of Health Professionals for a National Health Program

Description of proposed legislation:

A constitutional amendment that reads: “Health care is a fundamental right that is an essential safeguard of human life and dignity. The state shall ensure that every resident has the opportunity to realize this right through a comprehensive system of quality health care that is accessible to each resident on an equitable basis.”

Background:

The amendment offers a set of human rights-based principles to measure health care reform in New Mexico and obligates the state to improve our health care system, but does not specify a particular reform structure or spending. This amendment will also encourage New Mexicans to advocate for their health care and increase awareness of available resources and opportunities for access. If passed with a simple majority in both the House and the Senate, the amendment will be voted on the next ballot, bypassing the Office of the Governor. This amendment is already widely endorsed by many health advocacy and faith-based organizations.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Bill drafted

Sponsor: Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino and Rep. Gail Chasey

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

No

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

Multiple

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

Sign on to endorsement letters

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: James Besante and Harris Silver

Email: jamesbesante@gmail.com or hasilver30@comcast.net

Telephone: 505-710-6745 or 505-980-3855

Website: none

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

Partnership for Community Action

Description of proposed legislation:

Drivers' Licenses for Undocumented People

Background:

It is imperative that NM protects the quality of life of ALL New Mexico residents regardless of immigration status. Access to a driver's license allows people to work, attend school, access healthcare, and participate in their school, place of worship, and in their community.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase

Presented to interim committees

Bill drafted

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

No

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

NM Conference of Catholic Bishops, Somos un Pueblo Unido, NM Voices for Children, El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos, among others.

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

Provide lobbying support if possible

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Javier Martinez

Organization: Partnership for Community Action

Email: javierm@forcommunityaction.org

Telephone: 505-247-9222

Website: www.forcommunityaction.org

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

Pojoaque Valley High School Indian Club

Description of proposed legislation:

Leslie Gutierrez, a Junior at PVHS has submitted an application to have a Teacher/Educator Appreciation Day at the Legislature this upcoming session. She is also working with Senator Richard Martinez to support recognition efforts to two school districts in the Senate Chambers. She hopes to be able to meet with Governor to present her idea and make a proclamation statewide.

Background:

Last year, Ms. Gutierrez was a part of a group of 5 students who were tasked with starting a teacher appreciation campaign at their school. However, Ms. Gutierrez has taken it to another level and with the help of Representatives Rodella and Madalena, she was able to recognize all the Teacher/Educators at each of the 5 schools in her district.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Sponsor: Sen. Richard Martinez

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

No

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

Ms. Gutierrez would like to have help in supporting her efforts.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Paula P. Gutierrez
 Organization: Pojoaque Valley School District
 Email: ppg@pvs.k12.nm.us
 Telephone: 505-819-1268

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

Prosperity Works

Description of proposed legislation:

1 - Restore \$500,000 in Individual Development Account (IDA) funding: IDAs allow low income people to save toward a goal of purchasing a first home, capitalizing a small business, or paying for post secondary education. When they complete financial capability training and reach their savings goal, we match them 4:1.
2 - Remove barriers to low income discount rates for home energy: Overcome NM Supreme Court decision, "Mountain States."

Background:

1 - IDAs free people from poverty in 18 months, provide new tools, skills and financial resources to partner CBOs through NM, and have a huge economic impact on communities.
2 - A low income discount rate will not only lower the energy burden for New Mexicans, it will improve the health and safety of their homes and have a positive impact on the economies of their communities.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Presented to interim committees
Bill drafted
Sponsor: 1 - Sen. Tim Keller; 2 - TBD

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, 1 - Sharon Henderson, VP Prosperity Works; 2 - Carmela Strace

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

1 - CBO partners statewide; 2 - Utility companies and Enviro

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

Sign on to endorsement letters

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Ona Porter
Organization: Prosperity Works
Email: Ona@prosperityworks.net
Telephone: 505-217-2747
Website: prosperityworks.net

PROPOSAL INFORMATION*Sponsoring Organization:***RESULTS***Description of proposed legislation:*

This is a Memorial in which the legislature asks the New Mexico Congressional delegation to support the Education for All Act. This bill has already been introduced in the House. Senator Udall is considering being the Senate sponsor, but needs encouragement to do so.

Background:

Around the world, 61 million primary-school aged children are still not in school, and many more lack a quality education. As we all know, education is one of the social determinants of health. This is especially true in the developing world, where, for example, a child born to an educated mother is more than twice as likely to survive to the age of 5, and where gains in women's education have been shown to make the most significant difference in reducing malnutrition, outperforming a simple increase in the availability of food.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Bill drafted

Sponsor: Nate Gentry

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, Members of the RESULTS group

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?

Phone calls and letters

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:

Organization:

Email:

Telephone:

Website:

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

Senate Memorial 18 Drug Policy Task Force

Description of proposed legislation:

Establishment of a state Cabinet-level Alcohol and Drug Addiction Director (ADAD) who will oversee a centralized department for the management of state activities related to prevention, harm reduction, and treatment of substance use disorders.

Background:

NM is a perennial national leader in negative substance use disorder (SUD) outcomes such as overdose, teens and adults with untreated SUDs and children initiating substance abuse before 13. Yet NM is at the bottom for resources and access to SUD prevention and treatment services, and has no treatment system. With 40 state agencies providing these services there is a substantial service fragmentation, financial and administrative waste, and disastrous outcomes. A state ADAD Director with a complete overview of this monumental problem could advocate and provide leadership and accountability, reduce waste and begin a state treatment system.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase
Presented to interim committees
Sponsor: Several legislators considering

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, members of SM18 Drug Policy Task Force and advocates

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

None

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

Sign on to endorsement letters

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: William Wiese, MD, MPH (presenter) and Harris Silver, MD
Organization: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico
Email: wwiese@salud.unm.edu and hsilver30@comcast.net
Telephone: 505-277-1598 or 505-980-3855

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

Southwest Women's Law Center

Description of proposed legislation:

Protect the School Athletics Equity Act - reporting for Title IX sports equity in NM

Background:

In 2009, the SWLC successfully passed legislation that required NM schools - for the first time - to report data on their level of compliance with Title IX in reference to equity in sports for girls and boys. We know the health benefits to our youth participating in sports and this law provides important information about gaps that must be addressed. However, some groups are now threatening to try to repeal or dilute the law. We would like to promote education about the law and get support in protecting it.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Presented to interim committees

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes

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

Women's Policy Agenda and other women's health organizations

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

Sign on to endorsement letters

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Julianna Koob
Organization: Southwest Women's Law Center
Email: koobjulie@yahoo.com
Telephone: 505-920-6002
Website: www.southwestwomenslaw.org

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

The New Mexico Health Equity Working Group - Deconstructing Racism Committee

Description of proposed legislation:

NM Senate Memorial 33, Anti-Institutional Racism passed in 2012. In 2013, Senator Linda Lopez will be introducing an Anti-Institutional Racism Bill.

Background:

In the 2012 NM Legislative Session, Senate Memorial 22, a memorial addressing institutional racism, passed. This presentation will discuss the historical context of an anti-institutional memorial, why it is needed, what steps have been taken to enact it, and how it has been used by other groups and institutions since its passing. The presentation will also cover how Senator Linda Lopez and the Deconstructing Racism Committee of the New Mexico Health Equity Working Group plan to introduce an Anti-Institutional Racism Bill during the 2013 Session.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Sponsor: Sen. Linda Lopez

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes

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

The Deconstructing Racism Committee of the New Mexico Health Equity Working Group, The Partnership for Community Action, and the Bernalillo County Place Matters Team

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

Provide lobbying support if possible

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Kristine Suozzi

Organization: The Deconstructing Racism Committee of the New Mexico Health Equity Working Group

Email: kosuozzi@yahoo.com

Telephone: 505-266-1421

Website: nmhealthequity.org

PROPOSAL INFORMATION*Sponsoring Organization:*

UNM

Description of proposed legislation:

The University of New Mexico (UNM) will be requesting an appropriation of \$265,000 to support the Center for Health Workforce Analysis. The Center will analyze health professional licensure and survey data in an effort to better understand the landscape of health professionals in the state and make informed recommendations about how to increase the health workforce, especially in needed areas of the state.

Background:

Signed into law in February 2012, the Health Care Workforce Data Collection, Analysis and Policy Act authorizes the transfer of health professional licensure and survey data from the State to the UNM Health Sciences Center. In response, the UNM HSC created the Center for Workforce Analysis to house and analyze these data, generate informed policy recommendations, and report to the legislature and other stakeholders.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Requesting an appropriation

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, UNM HSC and Robert Wood Johnson Center for Health Policy at UNM

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

Robert Wood Johnson Center for Health Policy at UNM, the UNM Health Sciences Center

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

Sign on to endorsement letters

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Sam Howarth

Organization: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico

Email: howarth@unm.edu

Telephone: 505-459-1782

Website: <http://healthpolicy.unm.edu>

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

Young Women United, Prospera Project - UNM Public Health Department

Description of proposed legislation:

Creation of statewide absence and leave policy for pregnant and parenting students in New Mexico

Background:

New Mexico has the second highest teen birthrate in the country. While the long-term health and well-being of young families is intimately connected with their educational achievements, research shows that negative school experiences and barriers for parenting teens may prevent achievement of educational goals and result in lower graduation rates. Teen mothers are less likely to graduate from high school than their non-parenting peers. Nationally, only 51% of teen mothers receive a high school diploma by age 22 compared to 89% of women who did not become parents in their teens. Hispanic teen mothers have even lower graduation rates; only 34% receive a high school diploma, the lowest percentage of any ethnic group (2010 Child Trends Research Brief, citation 5). Individuals with less education are more likely to experience unemployment, less likely to accumulate higher household financial wealth, and less likely to have better health outcomes. Young people in New Mexico deserve equality in education. As we continue to build a healthy New Mexico where all families can thrive, we must ensure that pregnant and parenting students are not left behind.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Still in planning/discussion phase
Presented to interim committees
Bill drafted

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, organizing by Young Women United

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

American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico, New Mexico GRADS, Pegausu Legal Services for Children, Southwest Women's Law Center

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

Sign on to endorsement letters

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	Micaela Cadena	Organization:	Young Women United
Email:	mcadena@youngwomenunited.org	Telephone:	505-644-5830
Website:	youngwomenunited.org		

PROPOSAL INFORMATION*Sponsoring Organization:*

Youth Development, Inc. - Elev8 New Mexico

Description of proposed legislation:

Recurring funding to the Department of Health's Office of School and Adolescent Health for quality behavioral health supports to students in 6th through 12th grades in C, D, and F schools with school-based health centers to assist with academic learning, utilizing standards and benchmarks for school-based behavioral health center services.

Background:

When students are anxious or traumatized by violence at home or in their neighborhoods, troubled by substance abuse or bullied, they cannot do well in school and risk dropping out. Behavioral health care for New Mexico's adolescent students through school-based health centers can help remove these learning barriers. But, while the need is great, behavioral health is underfunded. A \$2.5 million recurring investment in behavioral health for adolescents served in school-based health centers will further students' academic progress and levels of engagement in schools.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Presented to interim committees

Bill drafted

Sponsor: Sen. Mary Kay Papen

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, Richard Romero

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

NMASBHC and school-health related organizations

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

Sign on to endorsement letters

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Ruth Williams

Organization: YDI-Elev8 New Mexico

Email: rwilliams@ydinm.org

Telephone: 505-577-6798

Website: www.elev8kids.org

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Sponsoring Organization:

Youth Development, Inc. - Elev8 New Mexico

Description of proposed legislation:

Enact the Community Schools Act, including the purpose and function of a community schools initiative implemented in any public school in the state. Initiatives must include extended learning experiences, school-based or school-linked health care and family engagement and support services.

Background:

Community schools focus on increasing learning time, engaging families, strengthening community and school connections, and coordinating resources. Afterschool improves student learning, ties learning to careers, reduces risky activities and keeps students safe. School-based or linked health removes barriers to learning. When families can connect to supports and engage in their students' educational journey, students succeed. The cost of letting young people fall is enormous and includes skyrocketing incarceration and corrections budgets, unnecessary emergency room visits and lost revenue from payroll taxes. By any measure, effective community schools are a smart, long-term investment in our nation's future.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Bill drafted

Sponsor: Sen. Cisco McSorley

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, Richard Romero

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

Provide lobbying support if possible

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Ruth Williams

Organization: YDI-Elev8 New Mexico

Email: rwilliams@ydinm.org

Telephone: 505-577-6798

Website: www.elev8kids.org

PROPOSAL INFORMATION*Sponsoring Organization:*

New Mexico Food and Agricultural Policy Council

Description of proposed legislation:

Healthy Kids, Healthy Economy: School Meals Using New Mexico-Grown Produce

This legislation would provide \$1.4 million to school meal programs to purchase New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables.

A funding investment to: (1) Purchase New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables to provide students with school meals that will encourage them to eat fresh produce for the rest of their lives; (2) Assist schools in meeting new federal rules; and (3) Strengthen New Mexico's farming economy by increasing market opportunities for small and mid-scale producers across the state.

Background:

With childhood obesity and food insecurity on the rise, augmenting school meals with fresh from the farm, NM grown fruits and vegetables provides encourages children to develop healthy, life-long eating habits. The USDA realized that school meals needed to change and new rules require more fruit and vegetable servings. However limited additional federal funding will not cover the full cost of purchasing the produce. This is an important investment in our rural economies. By helping schools purchase local produce, farmers will have access to a large, state-wide market and will be able to expand their businesses to meet the demand.

Where is the issue in the legislative process?

Presented to interim committees

Bill drafted

Sponsor: Sen. Pete Campos

Do you have someone who will be lobbying for you on this initiative?

Yes, New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council

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

Healthier Weight Council

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

Support at the legislature and outreach to membership.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Kathleen Gonzalez

Organization: NM Food and Agriculture Policy Council

Email: kathleen@farmtotablenm.org

Telephone: 505-473-1004 ext. 12

Website: www.farmtotablenm.org