New Mexico Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
October 19, 2026
Dick Mason – Medical Board Roundtable

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee

Good afternoon. My name is Dick Mason and I want to thank the committee for allowing us the opportunity to present to you on the issue of improving the transparency and accountability of the New Mexico Medical Board.

First of all, I want to thank Senator Linda Lopez for introducing a discussion draft, SB270, at the end of the 2026 session. I look forward to the amended legislation in the 2027 session.

The stated mission of the New Mexico Medical Board is as follows: **"The New Mexico Medical Board was established by the State Legislature "in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare and to protect the public from the improper, unprofessional, incompetent and unlawful practice of medicine.".** Legislation similar to that submitted by Senator Lopez can help the New Mexico Medical Board fulfill that mission.

Since I moved to New Mexico in 2004, I have worked on improving New Mexican's health insurance coverage and access to care. But it wasn't until I joined the national Medical Board Roundtable (MBR), a project of the Patient Safety Action Network (PSAN) in 2016 that I realized there was something missing in my advocacy – **patient safety**

According to the Patient Safety Action Network, preventable medical errors are the third leading cause of death in the United States. According to a study posted on 247wallst.com (a trusted financial reporting website), between 2021-2023 New Mexico was the 5th worse state in percentage of deaths due to medical error with 1.5 percent per 100,000 people. That would be 3,150 avoidable deaths. Compare that to the 1,381 traffic accident deaths and the 2,974 overdose deaths during the same period.

I am pleased that today you will be hearing from three of my colleagues on the Medical Board Roundtable and the Patient Safety Action Network. I have learned so much from them over the years. I will let them introduce themselves.

Thank you!