



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, immediate consideration of issues critical to the economic health and welfare and public safety of New Mexico and its citizens is necessary and such conditions have arisen since the conclusion of the Second Session of the Forty-Eighth Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the State's budget surplus presents an opportunity to offer immediate relief to the citizens of New Mexico who are suffering from a sluggish national economy and the rising cost of gasoline, transportation, utility bills, food, health care insurance, child care, and other basic necessities; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive package of tax relief and health care reform will boost family budgets, ease commutes, and increase access to health care around the State; and

WHEREAS, the current economic environment makes it clear that the State of New Mexico cannot afford to postpone taking immediate and necessary steps to achieve the goal of an affordable health care system which will result in a higher quality of life for thousands of New Mexicans and significant savings to the State, while maintaining the freedom of individual choice; and

WHEREAS, the current system fails to meet this standard because an unacceptable number of New Mexicans are without health insurance and consequently lack access to necessary and critical care; the administrative costs associated with providing health care and coverage comprise an exceedingly high percentage of the overall costs of health care; inefficiencies in the system have a disproportionately negative effect on minorities and underprivileged citizens; and individuals with preexisting conditions often face insurmountable obstacles to obtaining coverage; and

WHEREAS, summer storms have caused particular hardship and destruction to Lincoln County, the Village of Ruidoso, and the Village of Ruidoso Downs, requiring that additional resources and funding be appropriated for disaster relief efforts in affected areas; and

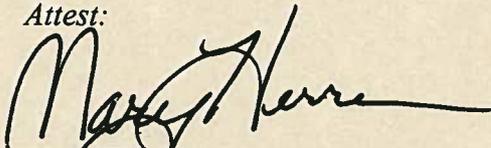
WHEREAS, the citizens of New Mexico are entitled to a fully funded and well-managed electoral system that will ensure that every vote cast in the 2008 general election is counted.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the Authority vested in me pursuant to the Constitution of New Mexico, do hereby call the Forty-Eighth Legislature of the State of New Mexico into Special Session at 12 o'clock noon, Friday, August 15, 2008, at the State Capitol in Santa Fe. In accordance with Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution, this Special Session is called for the purpose of considering and enacting only the following legislation and no other:

- 1. An act that creates an executive branch health care administrative entity to administer the phased-in consolidation of state-subsidized programs with the purpose of gaining administrative efficiencies, and that evaluates health coverage affordability, costs, quality, and access issues.*
- 2. An act that provides commercial insurance reforms in the form of guaranteed issue in the individual market; that provides for 85 percent of premiums to be spent on direct services; that provides for moving to a reduced rating factor due to health status and experience and a consistent time period for portability; that provides for health insurance coverage for all children through the age of 18 and under; and that makes an appropriation from the general fund to the Human Services Department to cover administrative costs associated with providing health insurance coverage for all children through the age of 18 years and under.*
- 3. An act that authorizes the creation, maintenance, use, retention, and protection of electronic medical records and ensures the privacy of electronic medical records.*
- 4. An act making an emergency appropriation from the general fund of \$4,000,000 to the Human Services Department to be expended in fiscal year 2009 for the low-income home energy assistance program, and an emergency appropriation from the general fund of \$2,000,000 to the Department of Finance and Administration to be expended in fiscal year 2009 for weatherization assistance.*
- 5. An act making an emergency appropriation from the general fund of \$3,200,000 to the transportation distribution of the public school fund to be expended in fiscal year 2009 for funding for higher fuel costs.*
- 6. An act making an emergency appropriation of temporary assistance for needy families block grant federal funds of \$7,200,000 to be expended in fiscal year 2009 and a recurring appropriation from the general fund of \$13,200,000 to be expended beginning in fiscal year 2010 to the Children, Youth, and Families Department for the purpose of funding the child care assistance program to the current eligibility level and to increase the income eligibility level for child care assistance to 200% of the federal poverty level.*
- 7. An act making an emergency appropriation from the general fund of \$1,637,400 to the Secretary of State to be expended in Fiscal Year 2009 for the purpose of funding costs associated with the 2008 general election.*

8. *An act providing cost of living tax relief to New Mexico's citizens by providing residents a refundable personal income tax credit for the 2007 taxable year, which will be based on income and the number of taxpayers and dependents on the return, and appropriating funds from the general fund to the Taxation and Revenue Department to administer and process the personal income tax credit.*
9. *An act creating a new, one-time, 10-day gross receipts tax holiday during the 2008 holidays that permits businesses to deduct from gross receipts sales of items that are eligible for deduction, with the same dollar limits as during the back-to-school tax.*
10. *An act increasing the working families tax credit from eight percent to ten percent of the federal earned income tax credit.*
11. *An act making an emergency appropriation of \$50,000,000 from the general fund and \$150,000,000 through the issuance of severance tax bonds to the Department of Transportation for the purpose of completing those projects authorized in Subsection A of Laws 2003 (1st S.S.), Chapter 3, Section 27, excluding projects set out in Paragraph (2) of Subsection A of that section.*
12. *An act making an emergency appropriation of \$3,600,000 to the Department of Homeland Security for assistance, supplemental to that provided by a disaster declaration by the Governor of New Mexico and the President of the United States, to Lincoln County, the Village of Ruidoso and the Village of Ruidoso Downs for the repair or improvement of roads and bridges damaged or destroyed by severe flooding in 2008.*
13. *An act appropriating legislative cash balances for the purpose of paying the expenses of the special session called pursuant to this Proclamation.*

Attest:


Mary Herrera
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this 15th day
of August, 2008.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of New Mexico


Bill Richardson
Governor

