

We, the undersigned organizations—representing thousands of New Mexicans—thank you for supporting our state’s Medicaid program. Maintaining a robust health care system through Medicaid is not only widely popular but the right thing for New Mexicans and a win-win for the state. Here are just a few examples of what your support for Medicaid has meant:

- **Expanded Health Care Coverage** – The rate of uninsured people in New Mexico has gone down significantly in the last two years from more than 20% uninsured to approximately 13% according to a recent Gallup Poll. More than 220,000 New Mexicans, most of whom are working poor adults, gained coverage due to the Governor’s decision to expand Medicaid.
- **Job Growth** - Health care is one of the fastest growing sectors in New Mexico despite our otherwise sluggish economy. During the first year of expanded Medicaid, New Mexico added 4,700 jobs in health care and education according to the Department of Workforce Solutions. These gains represented 46% of the total jobs added over the year and the sector continues to grow at record levels.
- **Maximizing A Powerful Economic Engine** - Federal funds for Medicaid inject \$4 billion per year into New Mexico’s economy. These funds generate billions of dollars in economic activity, creating new jobs, and supporting our hospitals and providers, while also increasing revenues for the state. For example, in fiscal year 2014, New Mexico gained \$115 million in revenues through our state insurance taxes, according to the Department of Finance and Administration’s general fund revenue estimate. That number is expected to reach \$247 million in fiscal year 2020. This revenue does not account for the additional revenue from income taxes and other gross receipts taxes as Medicaid funds generate new jobs, income and spending.
- **Reduced Uncompensated Care** - Prior to the Affordable Care Act, New Mexico hospitals and other health care providers furnished an estimated \$335 million in uncompensated care every year. When people have health coverage like Medicaid, our doctors, hospitals, and providers can count on getting paid for their services. That’s not only good for the providers, but it also reduces the burden on local governments to help cover these costs through their indigent funds, which are paid for by taxpayers. According to the Legislative Finance Committee, states like New Mexico that expanded Medicaid saw an average 30% reduction in uncompensated care just within the first year of the expansion.

For these reasons, among others, we ask that you continue your support of Medicaid to help provide quality health care coverage to working poor New Mexicans and their families. Our state has been committed to fully funding Medicaid even through difficult economic circumstances. The majority of voters opposed making cuts to the program in past years, with 80% of voters recognizing that Medicaid was “important” for the state. Medicaid now provides health care coverage to over 1/3 of all people in New Mexico.

A great deal of work has gone into making the Medicaid program comprehensive for recipients yet cost-effective for the state. As our state takes on its share of funding for Medicaid Expansion,

we recognize there may be pressure to adopt further cost containment measures. Those discussions must be approached with extreme caution as reductions could harm the health of our children, elderly, disabled and working poor adults. Very few options remain for cutting costs that would not impact services. To avoid those harms, we urge you to carefully examine any cost saving proposals for their impact on patients and our health care sector. We also welcome the opportunity to speak with you and your staff to answer any questions or to discuss cost-saving measures that would maintain health care services.

Respectfully,

Health Action New Mexico  
Interfaith Worker Justice-New Mexico  
League of Women Voters of New Mexico  
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-New Mexico  
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty  
New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
New Mexico Voices for Children  
RESULTS-Santa Fe  
Southwest Women's Law Center  
YDI-Elev8-New Mexico

CC:

The Honorable Susana Martinez, Governor  
Secretary Brent Earnest, New Mexico Human Services Department  
Members, Legislative Finance Committee  
David Abbey, Director, Legislative Finance Committee