

Position Statement on the New Mexico Health Security Planning and Design Bill

SUBJECT: Senate Legislation for the New Mexico Health Security Planning and Design Bill in the 2021 Session

POSITION: The New Mexico Health Security Planning and Design Bill (HSPDB) is good for New Mexico and should be passed in to law, allowing a Plan for implementation to be implemented over the next 3-4 years.

FACTS: "The U.S spends about twice as much per person on health care as other developed countries. Yet we have the lowest life expectancy, highest suicide rates, and highest chronic disease burden. Despite the amount we spend, millions of Americans are uninsured or cannot afford care, because of high deductibles, premiums, and copayments. The economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic is only worsening this."¹

- The HSPDB would, based on the KNG study, reduce uninsured in NM to less than 1%, covering about 180,000 New Mexicans currently uninsured²
- It is estimated to save over \$1 Billion over the first 5 years³
- These savings are in agreement with previous studies evaluating economic feasibility conducted in 1997 and 2007 when corrected for inflation. It provides a freedom of choice for doctors, hospitals, and covers independent of location⁴
- Employers and individuals who wish to purchase supplemental insurance may do so
- The HSPDB reduces administrative costs to all areas of the health care system since all payments for healthcare would be through 1 system and made by this system
- Preserves the existing private healthcare delivery system
- Offers services equal to those in the state employees' health plan, including behavioral health
- Administered by a commission(s) ("run by cooperatives"⁵) representing NM geographically, and include public and healthcare providers, but none from the insurance industry, subject to public transparency laws. Meetings will be open to the public, for example
- Premiums will be based on income (with minimums and maximums)
- The plan controls costs by requiring bulk purchasing of drugs, medical equipment and supplies
- Only those in the plan are required to pay
- This legislation is supported by 36 cities and counties and 170 organizations across NM, including "business owners, farmers and ranchers as well as groups advocating for low-income New Mexicans."⁶

ASK: Pass the New Mexico Health Security Planning and Design Bill during the 2021 session. I also ask that you contact me to schedule a zoom with me, and more of your constituents, so we can hear each other's position.

Sincerely,

Albuquerque Interfaith

REFERENCES:

1. Dr. Davena Norris, May 19, 2020, Los Alamos Daily Post, *Pandemic Reveals We Need Health Security*, www.ladailypost.com
2. KNC Health Consulting LLC, July 15, 2020, *Final Report on New Mexico's Health Security Plan*, www.knghealth.com
3. Sherryt Robinson, 9/21/2020, The Carlsbad Current Argus, *New Stab at statewide public health insurance could be a do-able*, www.currentargus.com
4. Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino, et. al., Jan. 2019, *New Mexico Health Security Act*, www.nmlegis.gov
5. Nurse Practitioner Council, 2020, *The Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign*, www.nmnpc.org
6. <https://www.nmhealthsecurity.org>