



New Mexico State Legislature

STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe
October 30, 2009

HAND DELIVERED

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico
Office of the Governor
Room 400, State Capitol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor Richardson:

Your office's analysis that Medicaid was not entirely exempted from the budget cuts required by House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 17 & 33 may very well be correct. But these cuts were not contemplated by you or by the legislature, and we urge you to use the broad discretion and flexibility the legislation gives you to avoid cuts to these programs that serve New Mexico's most vulnerable residents.

The analysis of the legislation that we had available during the session indicated that Medicaid would be exempt from the cuts. And, neither the Human Services Department nor any representatives from the executive branch commented to us upon the possibility that Medicaid spending would be cut.

To cut Medicaid, as some have suggested the bill requires, would result not only in substantial hardship for thousands of New Mexicans, but also in savings well above the \$93.7 million reduction in executive-controlled agency budgets contemplated by the legislature.

We encourage you to use the flexibility that the legislation offers you to make whatever cuts to the budget you determine to be necessary while working with the legislature in carrying out its intent to spare Medicaid from the budget cuts. We will be in regular session in less than three months, still only half-way through the fiscal year, and together, we can clear up any language that the executive may consider ambiguous.

The Honorable Bill Richardson
October 30, 2009
Page 2

In this financially difficult time, we are confident that you will join us by making the necessary cuts without hurting those most in need of critical governmental services.

Sincerely,



W. KEN MARTINEZ
State Representative, District 69



MICHAEL S. SANCHEZ
State Senator, District 29

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