



PRESS RELEASE

July 8, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Eric Griego, Executive Director, New Mexico Voices for Children
505-244-9505 ext. 14 (p); 505-259-3424 (c); egriego@nmvoices.org

OR: Gerry Bradley, Research Director, New Mexico Voices for Children
505-244-9505 ext. 23 (p), 505-264-0074 (c), gbradley@nmvoices.org

Report: Health care proposals would not harm New Mexico families

ALBUQUERQUE—Two proposals before Congress could pay for national health care reform without gouging working families, according to a report released yesterday by Citizens for Tax Justice.

One of those proposals, which would apply the Medicare tax to capital gains income, would have the greatest impact on just 1 percent of New Mexicans – those in the very highest income bracket. New Mexico's low-income earners would see an average tax increase as low as \$3 a year. Because Medicare is funded through a payroll tax, unearned income – such as the profits on the sale of real estate or stocks and bonds – are currently exempt.

The other proposal, which would limit the itemized deductions that high-income people can take, would not raise taxes at all on moderate- and low-income families. This proposal would raise about \$260 billion nationally over the next ten years. The first proposal would raise about \$500 billion over the next decade.

"Everybody who works for a living pays into the Medicare trust fund except for some of the wealthiest Americans. That's just plain unfair," said Eric Griego, Executive Director of New Mexico Voices for Children. "We must change our priorities as a nation. The fact that millions of American children cannot get health care is shameful," he added.

Citizens for Tax Justice is a Washington, DC-based nonpartisan, nonprofit research and advocacy organization dedicated to fair taxation at the federal, state, and local levels.

Their report is available online at: <http://www.ctj.org/payingforhealthcare.htm>.

###



The Fiscal Policy Project is a program of New Mexico Voices for Children and is made possible by grants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, McCune Charitable Foundation, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

2340 Alamo SE, Suite 120, Albuquerque, NM 87106-3523; 505-244-9505 (p); www.nmvoices.org