



PRESS RELEASE

July 18, 2008

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

Advocacy group supports Governor's 'CARE' package for special session

ALBUQUERQUE—New Mexico Voices for Children announced today that it strongly supports key provisions in Governor Richardson's proposal for the \$400 million in unexpected revenue. The non-partisan advocacy group is most supportive of the Governor's proposal to increase the state's Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC). The proposal will raise the WFTC to 10 percent of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, which is geared toward working families. "Refundable tax credits like this that reward hard work have already proven to be an excellent way to alleviate poverty," said Eric Griego, NM Voices' Executive Director. "We're encouraged that the Governor wants to build on what is already a successful strategy."

Also under the proposal, the Governor recommends a one-time cost-of-living tax rebate that is calibrated to income level, with lower-income families receiving the largest rebates. "This is the smartest, most appropriate and effective way to implement progressive tax policies," said Gerry Bradley, Research Director for NM Voices. "By targeting rebates to those who must spend the bulk of their income on day-to-day necessities, the rebates will help working families while bolstering local businesses."

NM Voices also supports the Governor's proposal to restore eligibility for childcare assistance to levels that would serve more working families. Many New Mexico parents need this vital work support, which will also help parents afford higher quality childcare.

While progressive tax rebates that help working families are a good use of this money, NM Voices also believes that some of the money should be used to expand health care. "The state should make sure that all children have access to health care," said Griego.

###

New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities.

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