



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Advocacy group: Invest revenue windfall in child health, education**

ALBUQUERQUE—New Mexico Voices for Children urged the state Legislature today to invest the \$394 million in unexpected revenue into child health, early care, and education instead of offering tax rebates.

"Windfall revenue like this offers a unique opportunity for us to make a significant investment in New Mexico's future – our children," said Eric Griego, Executive Director of the child advocacy organization New Mexico Voices for Children. "Tax rebates may make for good public relations, but in reality, a rebate check will end up buying about a tank of gas," he added.

"Instead, we should be investing in our expanding pre-K program and building school-based health centers to serve some of the 88,000 children who do not have health coverage.

"While high gas prices are hurting New Mexico's working families, a one-time rebate will not lead to long-term change. Children who are sick, have undiagnosed developmental issues, and do not get quality early care so they are ready to start school, are less likely to succeed in school – and, ultimately, in life. We owe it to them to make sure they have the best possible opportunity to reach their potential. And the payoff will benefit everyone," Griego said.

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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.

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