

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW

OUR POLICY PRIORITIES

- Increase and expand the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC)
- Update the Low-Income Comprehensive Tax Rebate (LICTR)
- Get assistance to families left out of federal pandemic relief
- Increase income eligibility for child care assistance; eliminate or reduce copays; and increase wages for child care workers
- Eliminate a number of fines and fees from the Children's Code
- Repeal past tax breaks that failed to create jobs
- Increase tax on cigarettes and e-cigarettes

COALITION POLICY PRIORITIES

- Send the Land Grant Permanent Fund for ECE constitutional amendment to the voters
- Fully fund a culturally and linguistically responsive K-12 education
- Ensure all workers have access to paid sick leave
- Enact a cap of 36% APR on all lending products
- Fully fund Medicaid
- Create a basic health plan or Medicaid buy-in plan
- Expand professional licensure for immigrants to more professions
- Protect our communities from climate change and ensure a just transition to renewables

WHAT PASSED



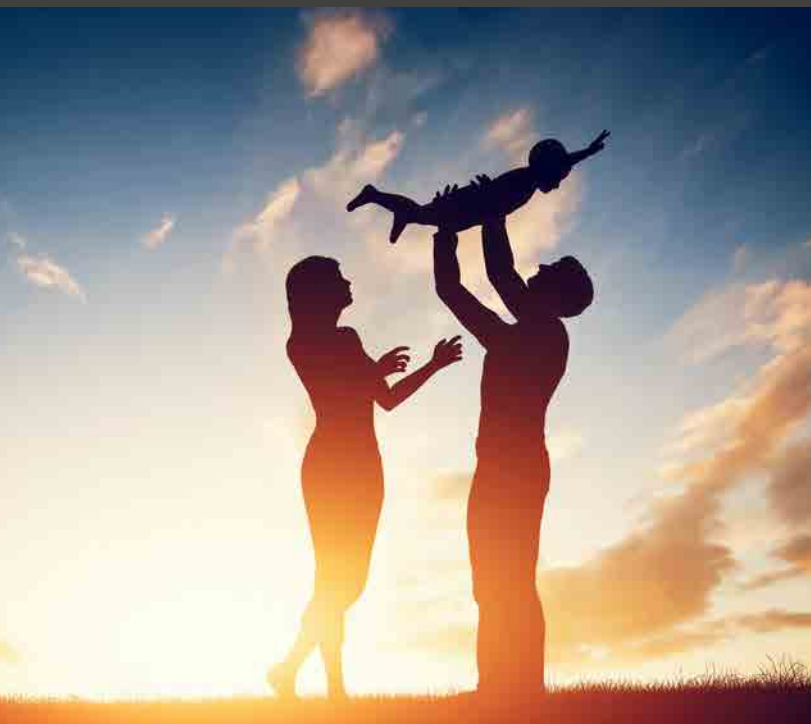
IMPROVEMENTS FOR FAMILIES

- Changes in tax credit/rebate for low-income New Mexicans (HB 291)
 - WFTC increased from 17% of the federal credit to 25%, returning an additional **\$49 million** to working families earning low incomes
 - WFTC expanded to include those who file their income taxes with an ITIN and childless adults ages 18 to 24, returning **\$2.9 million** to these workers
 - LICTR eligibility increased from those earning \$22,000 to those earning \$36,000
 - Average LICTR rebate increased from \$78 to \$195, returning up to **\$48.8 million** to New Mexicans with the lowest incomes
 - LICTR now indexed to rise with inflation
- **\$5 million** appropriated for families left out of federal pandemic relief (HB 2)
- New Health Care Affordability Fund created and funded (HB 122, SB 317)
- Patient debt collection protection enacted (SB 71)
- Medicaid funding increased by **\$64 million** (HB 2)



IMPROVEMENTS FOR KIDS

- Funding for early childhood care and education
 - Constitutional amendment to invest 1.25% of the state's \$22 billion Permanent Fund in ECE and K-12 to be sent to voters (HJR 1)
 - **\$7.7 million** appropriated for early pre-K
 - **\$7 million** appropriated for BIPOC teacher recruitment and training
 - **\$3 million** appropriated for home visiting
 - **\$3 million** appropriated for pay equity
 - **\$2.8 million** appropriated to turn half-day pre-K to full day
 - **\$1.4 million** appropriated for FIT (Family Infant Toddler Program)
 - **\$1 million** appropriated for Families First
- Providing a multicultural and linguistically responsive K-12 education
 - Hair styles and cultural headdresses protected from discrimination (HB 29, SB 80)
 - Bilingual Multicultural Education Advisory Council established (HB 52)
 - Black Education Act enacted (HB 43)
 - Task force created to map access to and gaps in culturally appropriate services (HB 287)



- Supporting college students
 - Opportunity Scholarship funded (HB 2)
 - College hunger pilot program created (SB 377)
- Several juvenile fines and fees eliminated from the Children's Code (HB 183)

✓ IMPROVEMENTS FOR WORKERS

- All private-sector employers must allow workers to accrue paid sick leave (HB 20)
- Professional licensure for immigrants expanded to more professions (SB 219)
- Frontline workers impacted most by oil & gas development will be at the forefront in diversification and a clean-energy economy (SB 112)
- Low-income essential workers who are eligible for the WFTC to receive a one-time \$600 rebate, returning **\$109 million** to workers. (SB 1)



WHAT DID NOT PASS

- A cap of 36% APR on all lending products (SB 66)
- Easy enrollment in Medicaid (HB 272)
- Repeal of past tax breaks that failed to create jobs (HB 291)
- Tax increase on cigarettes and e-cigarettes (HB 167, SB 197)
- Climate Solutions Act to protect our communities and environment (HB 9)