



# **2023 Post-Session Legislative Debrief**

**New Mexico Voices for Children**

April 20, 2023



Bill Jordan (he/him)



Divya Shiv



Lydia Paukei (she/her)



Jacob Vigil



Sharon Kayne, NMVC (she/her)



Emily Wildau



Alex McCausland (he/him)



Brian Urban



Javier Rojo



Barbara Mike



Farah Council (she / her / ella)





A photograph of four diverse children (two boys and two girls) sitting outdoors on the ground, smiling and reaching out towards the camera. They are surrounded by many floating soap bubbles. The background is a soft-focus view of trees and foliage, suggesting a park or natural setting. The overall mood is joyful and carefree.

# Heading into 2023

[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)

# Child Well-Being Challenges Persist



## **NM households with children (Jan. 2023):**

- **45%** – difficulty paying for basic household expenses
- **12%** – not eating enough
- **26%** – felt likely to be evicted within 2 months
- **26%** – reduced or forwent basic household necessities to pay an energy bill
- **14%** – kept home at a temperature that felt unsafe or unhealthy



# Political Context

- 16 new House members and 1 new Senate member
- Newly elected Dem and GOP leadership:
  - Speaker Javier Martinez
  - Minority Leader Ryan Lane
- Rep. Nathan Small made Chair of HAFC
- Record levels of “new” state revenue (\$3.5 billion)
- Governor MLG in the first year of a second term
- Less tension, in spite of the many controversial pieces of legislation

# Strategies and Tactics

- Outreach to lawmakers before and during the session
- Strong pre-session contact with key players
- Partner collaboration
- 5 T's:
  - Teamwork
  - Testify
  - Text
  - Talk
  - Thank





# Communications

- 16 reports, briefs & fact sheets
- 13 op-eds, blogs & letters to the editor
- 121 media interviews or mentions
- 1,800 community contacts to policymakers prompted
- 13,339 social media followers



350,000 NEW  
MEXICO KIDS WILL  
BENEFIT FROM  
INCREASING THE  
STATE CHILD TAX  
CREDIT



NEW MEXICO  
**VOICES**  
FOR CHILDREN

SUPPORT SB 4 TO PROVIDE HEALTHY  
& UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS!



NEW MEXICO  
**VOICES**  
FOR CHILDREN

THE CAPITAL GAINS  
DEDUCTION BENEFITS  
WALL STREET, NOT  
MAIN STREET.



NEW MEXICO  
**VOICES**  
FOR CHILDREN

INCREASING THE CHILD  
TAX CREDIT WOULD  
PROVIDE \$12 MILLION IN  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  
TO NATIVE AMERICAN  
FAMILIES

NEW MEXICO  
**VOICES**  
FOR CHILDREN





A photograph of a family celebrating. A young girl with curly hair is on the left, high-fiving a man in the center. The man is also high-fiving a woman on the right. They are all smiling and looking at each other. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

# Policy Outcomes

[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)

# Budget Policy

- **Investments increased in programs and services that improve family well-being**
  - \$9.6 billion state budget, increased 14% (HB 2)
  - Big revenue surplus, new leadership, improved budget process
  - With over-reliance on volatile oil and gas revenues, smart tax policy needed to sustain meaningful investments





# Tax Policy

- **Refundable state Child Tax Credit increased (HB 547)**
  - Income-based, and increased up to \$600/child
  - Improves racial and gender equity
  - Benefits 350,000 children
  - An additional \$105 million to families (total: \$180 million)
- **One-time rebate relief (HB 547)**
  - \$500 single, \$1,000 married filers
  - \$670 million for 900,000 residents
  - \$15 million to residents who don't qualify for rebates (HB 2)
- **Successfully DEFENDED**
  - Significant revenue defended (anti-pyramiding)
  - Other safeguards put in place to protect revenue



# Tax Policy

- **PASSED BUT WERE VETOED (HB 547)**

- Reducing gross receipts tax rate
- Improving Low-income Comprehensive Tax Rebate
- Limiting capital gains deduction
- Cutting most personal income tax rates
- Protecting the climate with tax credits
- Increasing liquor excise tax
- Increasing cigar tax
- Changing corporate income taxes

- **DID NOT PASS**

- Increasing PIT rates for high earners
- Reforming tobacco tax



# Early Care and Education

- **Funding for the Department increased**

- \$97.8 million for child care
- \$109 million for NM Pre-K
- \$8 million for home visiting

- **Early childhood funding protected**

- Early Childhood Trust Fund (HB 191)

- **DID NOT PASS**

- Reducing pre-K suspensions/expulsions (SB 283)





# Family Economic Security

- Tax policy and criminal justice
- TANF maximum benefit increased by 15% (HB 2)
- **DID NOT PASS**
  - TANF statutory fixes (SB 267)
  - Paid family and medical leave
  - Increasing minimum wage



# K-12 and Higher Education

- **Support for educators**

- Salaries for educational assistants increased (HB 127)
- Health care coverage parity for educators increased (HB 533)

- **Support for students**

- Instructional hours increased (HB 130)
- Menstrual products provided in school bathrooms (HB 134)

- **Free tuition for all**

- Opportunity Scholarship fully funded (HB 2)

# K-12 and Higher Education

The background of the slide features a blurred image of several hands raised in the air, suggesting a public meeting or a vote-taking session. The hands are light-skinned and are positioned at various heights, with one hand in the foreground being more prominent than the others.

- **DID NOT PASS**

- Teaching affirmative consent (HB 43)
- Reducing suspensions and expulsions (SB 283)

- **Successfully OPPOSED**

- School vouchers (SB 109, SB 113)
- Limiting Opportunity Scholarship or converting it to a loan program (HB 2, SB 481)



# ***Yazzie/Martinez Response***

- **Funding for students who are low income**
  - “At-Risk” index increased (HB 199)
  - Family Income index continued (SB 3)
- **Funding for Tribal Remedy Framework**
  - American Indian ed technical assistance centers created (HB 280)
  - ECECD tribal programs mandated (HB 148)
- **DID NOT PASS**
  - Funding for tribal education (HB 140, HB 147, HB 149)
  - Increasing ethnic studies requirements (SB 340)
  - Prohibiting student restraint or isolation (SB 387)
  - Creating Office of Special Education (HB 285)

# Civil Rights & Civic Participation

- **New Mexico Voting Rights Act passed (HB 4)**
  - Native American Voting Rights Act
- **Protections for LGBTQ community passed (HB 207, HB 31, HB 7)**
- **Language detrimental to tribal governments removed (SJR 9)**
- **DID NOT PASS**
  - Changing anti-donation clause (SJR 9)
  - Funding constitutional review commission (SB 308)



A healthcare worker, likely a nurse or doctor, is shown from the side, wearing teal scrubs and a stethoscope. She is smiling and looking down at a young child. The child is shirtless and wearing brown shorts, and is looking up at the healthcare worker. The background is a solid teal color.

# Health Care

- **Medicaid funding increased (HB 2)**
  - \$224 million in new funding, including a 10% increase in provider reimbursement rates
- **New Health Care Authority Department created (SB 16)**
  - Medicaid, the Exchange, and other insurance consolidated in one agency
- **Health care access and affordability increased**
  - Medicaid Forward study funded at \$500,000
  - Reproductive and gender-affirming health care protected
  - Coverage of diabetes, chiropractic care, prosthetics, etc., improved
  - **DID NOT PASS**
    - Prescription drug affordability
- **Medical malpractice fixed (SB 523)**

A healthcare worker, likely a nurse or doctor, is shown from the side, wearing teal scrubs and a stethoscope. They are examining a young child's chest with the stethoscope. The child is shirtless, wearing brown shorts, and has a pacifier in their mouth. The background is a solid teal color.

# Behavioral Health Care

- **Minor expansion this year, following major expansion last year**
  - \$6.2 million appropriated to HSD
  - Access to behavioral health services expanded (SB 273)
- **DID NOT PASS**
  - Increasing alcohol tax for substance abuse treatment



# Public Health

- **Food Initiative**

- Investments continued through agency budgets
- Universal healthy school meals (SB 4)

- **School-based health centers**

- SBHCs codified in state law (SB 397)

- **Gun violence prevention**

- Safe gun storage required (HB 9)
- **DID NOT PASS**
  - Waiting period for firearm sales (HB 100)
  - Increasing age for firearm purchases to 21 (SB 116)

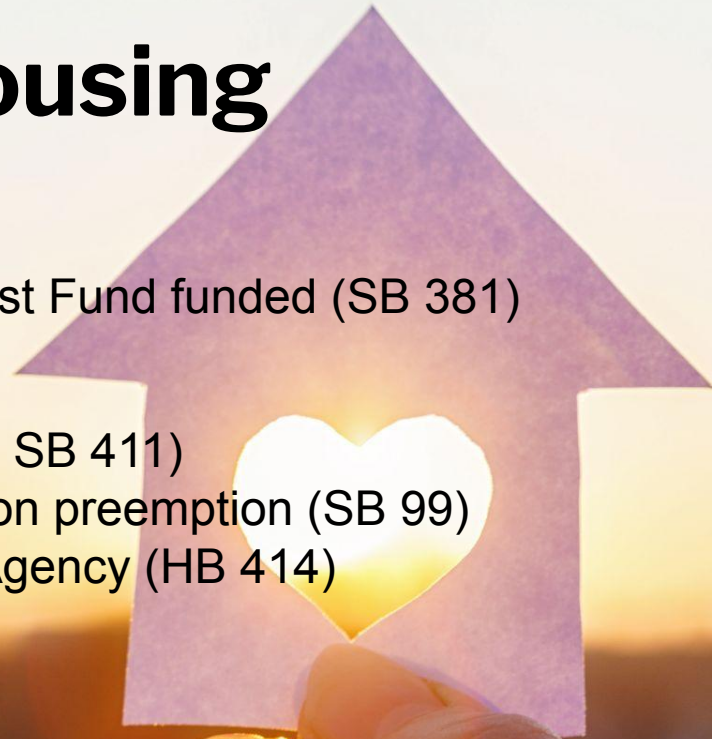
# Housing

- **Affordable housing**

- New Mexico Housing Trust Fund funded (SB 381)

- **DID NOT PASS**

- Rental protections (HB 6, SB 411)
- Removing rent stabilization preemption (SB 99)
- Creating State Housing Agency (HB 414)





# Environment & Climate

- **Land & water conservation, youth outdoor access, sustainable development**
  - Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund (SB 9)
  - Just transition for workers and our economy funded (HB 2)
- **DID NOT PASS**
  - Public Health & Climate Resiliency Act (SB 5, HB 42)
  - Codifying greenhouse gas reductions in statute
  - Reforming outdated oil & gas industry regulations
- **VETOED**
  - Five climate protection tax credits (HB 547)



# Criminal Justice Reform

- **Juvenile justice**

- Life without parole for juveniles abolished (SB 64)

- **Criminal fines and fees**

- Debt-based driver's license suspensions ended (SB 47)
- All court fees eliminated (HB 139)



A photograph of four young children running joyfully along a dirt path in a sun-dappled forest. The children are diverse in age and ethnicity, all smiling and moving towards the camera. The path is covered in dry pine needles and leaves, and the background shows the trunks of large trees and lush green foliage.

# Looking Forward

# Policy Opportunities on the Horizon

- Opportunity for policy progress in many areas
- Changes in leadership, staff, and process offer new opportunities
- Grow relationships with and help develop new lawmakers
- Prioritize racial and gender equity
- Bigger, bolder, better policies for families





# Support Our Work

Make a donation and  
sign up to receive email alerts at  
[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)

A silhouette of a person carrying a child on their shoulders, both with arms outstretched, against a sunset background. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The person is standing in a field with mountains in the distance.

# Thank You!

**New Mexico Voices for Children**  
[www.nmvoices.org](http://www.nmvoices.org)