2023 Post-Session Legislative Debrief

New Mexico Voices for Children

April 20, 2023
Heading into 2023
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 forgone 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.

Support SB 4 to provide healthy & universal school meals!

The capital gains deduction benefits Wall Street, not Main Street.

Increasing the Child Tax Credit would provide $12 million in economic opportunity to Native American families.
Policy Outcomes
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

- **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)
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)
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)
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

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