2024 Post-Session Legislative Debrief

New Mexico Voices for Children

March 13, 2024
Introducing Our New Executive Director

Gabrielle Uballez!
Heading into 2024
Political Context

→ 3 new House members and 3 new Senators.
→ 2024 is an election year for all 112 legislators.
→ Continued robust level of “new” state revenue ($3.5 billion).
→ LFC & MLG want to slow the growth of the budget and greatly shrink the size of a 2024 tax bill from the vetoed 2023 tax bill.
→ Less tension, in spite of the many controversial pieces of legislation.
→ GOP tactic to stall and filibuster so fewer bills would pass.
Effective Policies Improve Poverty

New Mexico’s Supplemental Poverty Rate Has Fallen Dramatically and is Just Above the U.S. Rate

New Mexico and U.S. Supplemental Poverty Measures (3-year averages, 2015-2022)

Source: US Census Bureau via Stacking of Income Supports Progress Report, NM LFC, pg. 2
NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN
Effective Policies Improve Workforce Participation Rates

NM unemployment is the lowest it’s been in many years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Percent Working</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TANF</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAP</td>
<td>62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIHEAP</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>64%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Childcare Assistance</td>
<td>97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Population</td>
<td>57%</td>
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Source: HSD, KFF, and LFC analysis of ECECD data via Stacking of Income Supports Progress Report, NM LFC, pg. 8 NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN
Outreach to lawmakers before and during the session

Strong pre-session contact with key players

Credible research & analysis

Strategic communications

Partner collaboration

Civic engagement

Strategies and Tactics
Communications

- 7 reports, briefs and fact sheets
- 4 op-eds and blogs
- 47 media interviews or mentions
- 585 community contacts to policymakers prompted
- 15,500 social media followers
New Mexico’s child care workers support our families and set our children up for success. So why don’t their wages reflect that?

Our state has been a leader in funding essential early childhood programs, thanks to our legislators, advocates, and partners.

New Mexico plans to expand prekindergarten slots, increase pre-K teacher pay.

New Mexico just voted to make pre-K a universal right.

Despite these wins, child care workers are still some of the most underpaid workers in New Mexico.
unanimously to pass House Bill 33, the Prescription Drug Transparency Act, which would increase price transparency within the prescription drug supply chain.

HB 33 would require manufacturers, health insurers, pharmacy benefits managers, and pharmacy services administrative organizations to report prescription drug prices and trends to the New Mexico Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI) annually.

OSI would then compile an annual report on its findings, present it to the legislature, and make it available to the public. OSI could impose penalties on reporting entities if information is late or inaccurate.

House Bill ("HB") 33 would create the Prescription Drug Transparency Act ("Act"). The Act would require (effective January 1, 2025) the Superintendent of Insurance to publish the price of prescription drugs that have a wholesale acquisition cost of $400 or more for a 30-day supply.
$10.2 billion state budget (HB 2) increased investments in programs and services that improve family well-being.

- But much more moderate budget growth
- Created the Government Results and Opportunity (GRO) Trust and Fund

With over-reliance on volatile oil and gas revenues + slowing revenue growth, smart tax policy needed to sustain meaningful investments.
We've made incredible progress improving the fairness of our tax code.

New Mexico is most improved when it comes to building a progressive tax code – now the 9th most progressive!
Tax Policy

→ Diversified and stabilized revenue while making our tax code more equitable (HB 252)
  ♦ Ensured corporations are paying more of their fair share
  ♦ Significantly limited the unfair capital gains deduction
  ♦ Targeted personal income tax cuts for families most in need

→ DID NOT PASS
  ♦ Increasing alcohol or tobacco taxes
Early Care and Education

→ Funding for the Department increased
  ◆ $75.7 million for child care
  ◆ $17.6 million for NM Pre-K
  ◆ $3.3 million for Tribal early childhood investment

→ Funding expanded
  ◆ Early Childhood Trust Fund (SB 153)

→ Coalition Priority
  ◆ $5 million for a child care provider wage and career ladder
Family Economic Security

→ Tax policy - lower income tax cut
→ Increasing access to affordable housing
  ◆ Housing Fund & Changes (HB 195)
  ◆ NMFA Affordable Housing Projects (SB 216)
→ DID NOT PASS
  ◆ Removing the prohibition of rent control (SB 186)
  ◆ Creating State Housing Agency (SB 71)
  ◆ Increased funding for housing stability (SB 31, SB 7)
  ◆ Paid family and medical leave (HB 6, SB 3)
Immigration Policy

➔ New Mexico Guaranteed Income Pilot Project and Study for Immigrant Families led to:
  ◆ $6 million in workforce development funding
  ◆ $1 million to develop and administer guaranteed income workforce pilot program (HB 303)

➔ DID NOT PASS
  ◆ Dignity not Detention (SB 145)
Higher Education

→ Full funding for Opportunity Scholarship (HB 2)
→ Created the Higher Ed Trust Fund (SB 159)
→ Flexibility for Lottery and Opportunity Scholarships (SB 239)
→ Post-secondary affirmative consent (HB 151)

→ DID NOT PASS
  ◆ Student Loan Bill of Rights (HB 71)
K-12 Education

→ Increased or continued investments in K-12 (HB 2)
  ◆ 3% salary increases, $15/hr minimum wage for all
  ◆ Reading instruction supports

→ Flexibility in graduation requirements (HB 171)
→ Study of class size reductions (HM 20)
→ Increased training and transparency for school boards (SB 137)

→ GRO Fund programs (HB 2)
  ◆ Educator clinical practice and special education stipends
Yazzie/Martinez Response

➔ Funding for students who are low income
   ♦ Family Income Index continued (HB 2)

➔ Funding for Tribal Remedy Framework
   ♦ Tribal Education Trust Fund DID NOT PASS (HB 134)

➔ DID NOT PASS
   ♦ Yazzie Lawsuit Educational Funding (HB 39)
Health Care

→ Medicaid fully funded (HB 2)
  ♦ Includes a boost in provider reimbursement rates

→ New Health Care Authority codified (SB 14)
  ♦ Medicaid, the Exchange, and other insurance consolidated in one agency

→ Health care access and affordability increased
  ♦ Health Care Affordability Fund stabilized (HB 7)
  ♦ Prescription Drug Accountability Act (HB 33)
  ♦ New rural hospital fund provides solvency (SB 161)
Public Health & Safety

→ County & Tribal Health Councils funded
  ♦ $3 million nonrecurring appropriation (HB 2)

→ Gun violence prevention
  ♦ 7-day waiting period to purchase a firearm (HB 129)
  ♦ No firearms near polling places (SB 5)
Food Initiatives

→ Full funding for Universal Healthy School Meals

→ SNAP changes
  ♦ Increased eligibility up to 200% FPL
  ♦ Increased monthly benefit for seniors and those with disabilities

→ $5 million for food banks

→ DID NOT PASS
  ♦ $25 million for food banks
  ♦ Pilot for Kinship Care SNAP program
Robust funding and tax incentives for climate protection and conservation
- $75 million New Mexico Match Fund (HB 177)
- Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund (HB 2)
- Climate-protecting tax credits enacted (HB 252)

Reduced GHG emissions from transportation fuels (HB 41)

DID NOT PASS
- Creating a Public Health & Climate Program and fund (HB 104)
- Reforming outdated oil and gas regulations and rates (HB 133, HB 48)

VETOED
- A severance tax exemption for stripper wells (HB 252)
Looking Forward
Policy Opportunities on the Horizon

➔ With our new leadership and strategic planning this spring we hope to set the stage for progress in many areas.
➔ An election year means new opportunities.
➔ Outreach to new legislative candidates provides an opportunity to build relationships and highlight our issues.
➔ Grow relationships with incumbents and new lawmakers.
➔ Prioritize racial and gender equity.
➔ Bigger, bolder, better policies for families.
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Thank You!

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