



The New Mexico Health Security Act

- The legislation has evolved over many years – with **input** from numerous organizations and individuals with varied interests around our state.
- It is a **New Mexico** solution to our health care crisis.

The Health Security Act:

- **Shifts the role** of private insurance to a supplemental one, as Medicare did when it was established.
- Sets up **our own** New Mexico **cooperative** health plan, where approximately 1.6 million young, old, healthy, and the not-so-healthy New Mexicans share the risk.

Exclusions: Active-duty and retired military personnel and federal retirees maintain their own plans. Tribes and self-insured plans covered under ERISA have the option to join.

- Creates an **independent non-governmental commission** to administer the Health Security Plan. This citizens' commission is geographically representative and publicly accountable.
- **Maintains** the private health care delivery system.
- Does **not** require new taxes.
 - ⇒ The Plan is paid for by combining existing public dollars spent on health care (Medicaid, Medicare) with premiums base on income and employer contributions (both are capped).
 - ⇒ Counties decide how their indigent funds could be used under this system.
- Requires a **go-slow approach** to develop and implement the Health Security Plan.
 - ⇒ **Year 1:** “The Year of Financing” when the Legislative Finance Committee, with public input, determines whether the Plan is financially feasible. A financial plan must be approved by the legislature and the governor before the next phase can go into effect.
 - ⇒ **Years 2–3:** If the numbers look good, **only then** is the commission set up. Developing the details of the plan, with legislative, executive, and public input, will take two years, with the ability to extend the time or to put on the brakes should the Plan prove unworkable.

The Plan Guarantees:

- Health care coverage for all New Mexicans, **regardless of age, income, employment, or health status.**
- Freedom of **choice of doctor** and hospital, even across state lines
- Comprehensive **services, no less than those offered to state employees**
- **Protections for retirees** so they will not lose what they already have

According to numerous state studies, including two conducted for New Mexico, covering all or most state residents under one health risk pool will reduce health expenditures by hundreds of millions of dollars. The Health Security Plan is the only New Mexico proposal that would alleviate the financial stress on our state budget as well as on families and businesses.
