

The New Mexico Health Security Act

- This legislation has evolved over many years – becoming stronger due to **input** from numerous organizations and various interests around the state.
- It is a **New Mexico solution to our health care crisis**.

The Health Security Act:

- Sets up **our own New Mexico health insurance plan** – like a cooperative - that is based on the old-fashioned concept of insurance, where approximately **1.6 million** young, old, healthy and the not-so-healthy New Mexicans **share the risk**.*

Exclusions: military personnel, and federal retirees maintain their own plans. Tribes and plans covered under ERISA have the option to join.

- Creates an **independent non-governmental commission** to administer the Health Security Plan. This commission is **geographically representative** and **publicly accountable**.
- **Maintains the private health care delivery system.**
- **Does not require new taxes.**
 - The Health Security Plan is paid for by combining **existing public dollars** spent on health care (Medicaid, Medicare) with **premiums based on income** and **employer contributions (with caps)**.
 - 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: analysis of the cost – with public input.** If the financial costs are too much and not approved by the Legislature, the Health Security Plan **will not go into effect**.
 - **Years 2 & 3:** If the numbers look good, it is estimated that working out the details of the Health Security Plan **with public input** from around the state will take **two more years** with the ability to extend the time to proceed or to put on the brakes should this phase prove to be not workable.

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 within the state and **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 one conducted for New Mexico, pooling state residents will result in a reduction of health expenditures by billions of dollars.*

Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign, PO Box 2606, Corrales, NM 87048 • 505-897-1803
The Campaign is a coalition of over 125 organizations from around the state.