

10 Ways in 10 Days

Way 3

10 ways budget cuts will hurt working New Mexicans



The Cut: Child care assistance was not only cut in the last two legislative sessions, but it also suffered when a federal block grant came up short last fall. This shortfall was resolved by cutting reimbursement rates for providers. While Governor Martinez's budget proposes no new cuts for child care, it again relies heavily on a federal block grant. Another shortfall would be devastating to the small businesses that provide child care, some of which have already had to lay off staff or even close their doors.

The Consequences: Due to significant drops in enrollment, one child care provider in Roswell has been forced to let one-third of her staff go. Reimbursement rate cuts have put another provider from Roswell in a tight spot. She writes:

"I've lost \$288 per month because of the rate cuts to providers. As a result, I was unable to pay my last electric bill on time. Making ends meet is going to be tough until I can catch up on that bill."

Another provider in Las Cruces writes:

"If we as a state are going to truly value our children, we need to do everything we can to ensure that they have a good environment to go to while their parents are at work. With out child care assistance, many families will have to make hard decisions. We as a state have a moral obligation to ensure that no children are left behind."

A Better Choice: Governor Martinez and the Legislature need to take a balanced approach to addressing our state's revenue crisis. They should:

- Get rid of tax giveaways that do not create jobs.
- Ensure that profitable corporations and the rich pay their fair share.
- Make big out-of-state corporations play by the same rules as our small home-grown businesses.
- Make our system of tax breaks more transparent and accountable.

It's only fair that we stand up for New Mexico families and small businesses.

Urge our politicians to make the *Better Choice for New Mexico*.

ABRAZOS FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES • AMERICA VOTES EDUCATION AND ACTION FUND • AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES • AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS NM • CENTER FOR CIVIC POLICY • COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA • FAMILIES AND YOUTH, INC. • FARM TO TABLE • HANDS ACROSS CULTURES • HEALTH ACTION NEW MEXICO • HOGARES, INC. • INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS • LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NM • LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY • NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS NM • NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION NM • NM ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION • NM CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION • NM COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS • NM EARLY CHILDHOOD ALLIANCE • NM FARMERS' MARKETS • NM HEALTH EQUITY WORKING GROUP • NM PROGRESSIVE ACTION • NEW MEXICO SOLUTIONS • NM VOICES FOR CHILDREN • NM YOUTH PROVIDERS ALLIANCE • OLÉ • PROSPERITY WORKS • RESULTS – SANTA FE • SANTA FE ALLIANCE • SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT • YOUTH WORKS

Visit *Better Choices New Mexico* at <http://betterchoicesnewmexico.com>