

10 Ways in 10 Days Way 1

10 ways budget cuts will hurt working New Mexicans



The Cut: Governor Martinez is proposing a 1.5 percent administrative budget cut for New Mexico's school districts. Cutting "non-classroom" spending will harm students.

The Consequences: Among other things, these cuts will impact the number of qualified nurses available to care for our children when they are at school. As one school nurse writes:

"I am a full-time nurse at an elementary school where 10 percent of the students have a medically diagnosed condition that requires treatment during the school day. I serve students with asthma, allergies, cancer, diabetes, seizures and psychiatric diseases. I provide daily direct care to these students so they can access their education. Five students on my campus require emergency, life-saving medication be available at all times. I am responsible for training and monitoring the staff in proper administration of medication in the event of an emergency during the school day. The interventions I implement make my school a safe, nurturing place for all students.

"I also provide health screening for the students I serve so I can identify medical conditions that may negatively impact learning. 15 percent of the children I've screened required referral for vision, hearing, dental, and other medical conditions. One student underwent surgery to remove a cataract that was causing blindness in one eye. Early identification led to intervention and treatment that will most assuredly impact her education!

"I am not a teacher but I am one of the professionals who help kids succeed. I impact student achievement."

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 out-of-state corporations and the rich pay their fair share
- Make big out-of-state corporations play by the same rules and pay taxes on their New Mexico profits
- Sunset the 2003 tax cuts for the wealthiest New Mexicans.

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*.

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