

10 Ways in 10 Days Way 2

10 ways budget cuts will hurt working New Mexicans



The Cut: Governor Martinez is proposing a \$5 million cut in remedial college courses. These courses get students up to speed on basic writing and math skills.

The Consequences: Remedial college courses aren't just for recent graduates who didn't do well in these subjects in high school. Many adults who are returning to school need remedial classes to brush up the basics. When the economy is bad, colleges across the country see a dramatic increase in the number of adults returning to school. Some have lost their jobs due to the economy and need to learn new skills so they can move into different job sectors. Some are just trying to better themselves so they can move a little further up the career ladder.

New Mexico's system of branch campuses makes it possible for more people to attend college—especially those living in rural areas. But if they cannot access remedial classes, many of them will have to put their education dreams on hold. In this economy, that can also mean they will suffer many more years of unemployment.

Our lawmakers should never make it more difficult for someone to complete their education. A college degree isn't just good for the individual. Having a well-educated and skilled workforce is necessary for New Mexico's economic development. Our future depends on it.

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*.

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