
20 Ways in 20 Days
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20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

Potential Cut: Nearly 13,000 elderly and disabled New Mexicans are already on waiting lists to receive Medicaid waivers.¹ Deeper cuts to this program will ensure that they continue to wait—while the waiting list continues to grow.

Potential Consequences: Medicaid waivers allow seniors and people with disabilities to live independently in the community instead of being forced into institutions like nursing homes. Not only do those living independently have more dignity, but community services also cost less than institutional care, so waiver programs are cost-effective. Additional cuts will mean that people now on waivers will receive fewer services, which will compromise their ability to live independently and may even endanger their health and safety. People on the waiting lists will have to keep struggling with the daily challenges they face, often without any other help, or be forced into nursing homes at an even higher cost to the state.

A Better Choice: A balanced approach that includes raising revenues is the best strategy for weathering the recession.

Legislators have a clear choice: they can make deeper, more damaging cuts in the funding that assists people with disabilities and the elderly, or they can choose a balanced approach—one that doesn't lay all the sacrifice on working families *and* that offers a sensible, long-term solution.

It's time to make the *Better Choice for New Mexico*.

First things First, New Mexico. Tell our Legislature: ***Don't balance the budget on the backs of New Mexico's working families.*** Instead, open the books on tax breaks for special interests, close the loopholes for out-of-state corporations, and rollback tax cuts for the wealthy.

Visit *Better Choices New Mexico* on facebook.com for more information about the group and specific revenue generators.

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