

20 Ways in 20 Days
Way 18 Day



20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

Potential Cut: The state Human Services Department has announced that it will suspend enrollment in the State Coverage Insurance (SCI) program on November 2, 2009 in order to lower the department's costs.¹

Potential Consequences: More than 1000 small business groups purchase health insurance for their employees through SCI. In all, more than 45,000 working New Mexicans who would otherwise have no health care coverage are insured through SCI.² But, as of November 2, new applicants for the program will be put on a waiting list ... and will likely be kept waiting until more funding is made available.

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 helps keep working New Mexicans healthy 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.

We urge them 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 <http://betterchoicesnewmexico.com> for more information about the group and specific revenue generators.

¹ NM Human Services Department press release, Oct. 2, 2009; <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/pdf/newsroom/nr/SCI-Waiting-List-NR-10-1-09.pdf>

² Ibid

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- AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS NEW MEXICO
- CENTER FOR CIVIC POLICY
- COMMUNITY ACTION NM
- CONSERVATION VOTERS NM
- COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA
- DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE NM
- FAMILIES AND YOUTH, INC.
- FAMILY JUSTICE CAMPAIGN
- HANDS ACROSS CULTURES
- HEALTH ACTION NEW MEXICO
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