

20 Ways in 20 Days Way 20 Day



20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

Potential Cut: The state Human Services Department is considering putting a limit on the number of prescriptions provided each month under Medicaid for adults who rely on the program.¹

Potential Consequences: Too many New Mexico families already have to make tough decisions every month about how to stretch their limited incomes. Do they put groceries on the table, pay the electric bill, or buy their prescription medications? Not only are these terrible choices to face, they can compromise a family's health and well-being. Medicaid coverage for adults is already limited to those who have extremely low incomes. Limiting prescription drug benefits will literally put people's lives in danger, and could ultimately end up costing New Mexico more money. Unable to purchase the medications that keep their chronic conditions in check, people will end up in the E.R. when their illnesses become life-threatening—at a significantly higher cost than the medication that could have prevented it.

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 provides prescription medications to very low-income adults 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. Testimony by Pam Hyde, Human Services Secretary, to the Legislative Finance Committee, Aug. 12, 2009

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