
20 Ways in 20 Days

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20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

Potential Cut: Truancy/Dropout Prevention program funding has already been cut by two-thirds—down to \$298,300. An additional 3 percent cut will likely put an end to this program.

Potential Consequences: New Mexico has one of the highest dropout rates in the nation (46 percent). If the Truancy/Dropout Prevention program is de-funded entirely, as many as 300,000 students at risk for dropping out will not have access to the kind of support this program offers. Our dropout rate is not just an education issue—it is a quality-of-life issue. Higher graduation rates means higher wages, lower poverty rates, and a stronger state economy. Conversely, about 80 percent of prison inmates are high school dropouts.

A Better Choice: While some cuts are inevitable, we urge lawmakers to take a more balanced and fair approach by raising revenue as well.

Legislators have a clear choice: they can either cut funding for dropout prevention or they can take a more balanced approach—one that doesn't lay all the sacrifice on working families *and* that offers a sensible, long-term budget 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 expenditures, close the loopholes for out-of-state corporations, and rollback the tax breaks for the wealthy.

Follow *Better Choices New Mexico* on Facebook.com, twitter.com, and betterchoicesnewmexico.pbworks.com for more information about the group and specific revenue generators.



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