

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **State and City Leaders, Advocates Unveil Alternatives to Further Budget Cuts at Today's Press Conference, Rally**

ALBUQUERQUE—While the recession has hit our state hard, more drastic cuts to the state budget will hit struggling families even harder. At today's press conference, several top leaders and advocates with Better Choices New Mexico will detail a series of budget solutions that will help protect investments in our future prosperity, promise new opportunity, and offer a helping hand for families faced with growing economic insecurity. The press conference is Tuesday, January 26, 2010, at 10:45am in the state Capitol rotunda.

Speakers at the press conference include Santa Fe Mayor David Coss, several Albuquerque and Santa Fe legislators, and advocates representing organizations from across the state. They will discuss legislative priorities that will benefit New Mexico's working families, while closing the budget gap.

Many of the proposals being floated to address the state's declining revenues will reduce opportunity, increase economic insecurity, and stall recovery. Scaling back investments in education, health care, public safety, infrastructure, and transportation will severely undermine the foundations of New Mexico's future prosperity. Drastic reductions of critical services needed most by families, children and the elderly struggling in tough economic times will only make matters worse.

The priorities being unveiled at the press conference will show that there is a better choice for New Mexico—a choice lawmakers can make this legislative session that offers a balanced approach to the state's revenue crisis.

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*BCNM unites New Mexico's faith community, working families, small businesses and nonprofit social advocacy groups that believe it is harmful to scale back investments in education, health care, and public safety. Better Choices New Mexico consists of: Abrazos Family Support Services, America Votes Education and Action Fund, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Teachers NM, Center for Civic Policy, Community Action NM, Communications Workers of America, Families and Youth, Inc., Farm to Table, Hands Across Cultures, Health Action NM, International Association of FireFighters, League of Women Voters of NM, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, National Education Association New Mexico, National Association of Social Workers New Mexico, NM Adult Education Association, NM Child Care and Education Association, NM Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NM Coalition to End Homelessness, NM Conference of Churches, NM Early Childhood Alliance, NM Progressive Action, New Mexico Solutions, NM Voices for Children, NM Youth Providers Alliance, Results-Santa Fe, Santa Fe Alliance, and SouthWest Organizing Project.*

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