

News Advisory
For immediate release

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Lt. Governor to Unveil Equal Pay Task Force

SANTA FE - Lt. Governor Diane D. Denish Today will announce Governor Bill Richardson's appointments to the Equal Pay Task Force, a group created by the Legislature to study pay disparities in the New Mexico workforce. The announcement will come during a press conference this morning at 11 a.m. in the Governor's Cabinet Room.

"There is no better time than over the Independence Day holiday to talk about one of the cornerstones of our nation - equality," Denish said. "The goal of this task force is to find out where pay disparities exist in New Mexico and give us recommendations on how to correct them."

The Equal Pay Task Force will comprise some of New Mexico's brightest minds in academia, business and the labor community.

It will include two members of the business community, two members of the labor community, two community advocates and three members of the higher education and research community. The Equal Pay Task Force is charged with examining the wage disparities between men and women and between minorities and non-minorities. It will report back to the legislature and the governor with its findings before the next legislative session, which begins in January.

"Through this task force we are sending a message that pay disparities based on gender and ethnicity have no place in New Mexico and no place in the United States," Denish said.

The Equal Pay Task Force will operate from July to December 1, 2003. The Task Force was created from legislation sponsored by Rep. Rhonda King (D-District 45) during the 2003 session.

What: Introduction of Equal Pay Task Force

When: 11 a.m. this morning

Where: Cabinet Room, Fourth Floor, State Capitol