



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson Signs Minimum Wage *Bill Raises Minimum Wage to \$7.50 Over Next Two Years*

SANTA FE-Governor Richardson today signed Senate Bill 324 today to raise the minimum wage to \$7.50 over the next two years. This new measure will raise the income of as many as 160,000 workers statewide over the next two years.

“I’m proud that New Mexico has passed this new minimum wage this year, and didn’t wait for Washington’s gridlock to end,” said Governor Richardson. “This is the crown-jewel of this 2007 legislative session. Today, we do what’s right for the working men and women who drive our economy.”

Governor Richardson hailed Senate Pro-Tem Ben Altamirano and Speaker Ben Lujan for their leadership, noting “Your meeting in the middle--means progress for tens of thousands of hardworking New Mexicans. The willingness of the House and Senate to also work through every tough issue is a key reason for the success of the 2007 legislative session.”

“I’m prouder still that we showed the country how to work across divides to make a difference for people,” said Governor Richardson. “Members of our religious, business and labor community showed that the fight for a dignified wage for a hard days work is something we can all agree on.”

The minimum wage will move to \$6.50 per hour starting in 2008 and then \$7.50 per hour in 2009 and beyond. The new law will not impact higher minimum wages already in effect in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. The Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) reports that this new law will have a significant impact to reduce the rates and depth of family and child poverty in New Mexico.

SB324 received the endorsement of the AFL-CIO, Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, Council of Bishops, Voices for Children and the Department of Labor.