



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



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Contact: Allan Oliver
505-476-2248

Governor Richardson Welcomes Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce Unanimous Vote of Support for Health Solutions Plan

Supports Governor's Position that Single-Payer Unacceptable

(SANTA FE, NM) – Today Governor Richardson welcomed the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce's endorsement of his HealthSolutions New Mexico Plan - a comprehensive reform blueprint to get all New Mexicans insurance coverage, and redesign the way health care is delivered. On Friday, the Chamber's Board of Directors voted unanimously to support Governor Richardson's health care proposal.

"Most New Mexicans receive health insurance through their employer," stated Governor Richardson. "As Albuquerque's leading organization to represent the needs of employers, this endorsement shows they recognize that my plan is the best means of achieving universal coverage, making coverage more affordable, and assuring our economy remains strong."

In the release announcing their endorsement, the chamber also noted their belief that Health Solutions New Mexico will help create a healthier workforce that will attract new business to our state and improve economic development.

"Our support for the Health Solutions New Mexico bill is premised on the belief that universal coverage is needed, is the right thing to do, and that this particular plan is the best structured legislation of those proposed to achieve it while protecting the competitive nature of health care insurance and provision," said Terri Cole, Chamber president and CEO.

During his State of the State, Governor Richardson called single-payer legislation that would place health care totally under government control unacceptable. In their health care position paper, the chamber concurred and issued the following statement on the single-payer health care proposal called the Health Security Act:

"The Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce opposes any noncompetitive public or quasi-public system, including any single-payer system as a method to achieve universal

health coverage. As we understand it today, the Chamber opposes the Health Security Act because it embraces significant elements of a single payer system.”

In its endorsement, the Chamber also recognized that “given the significant dissatisfaction with the status quo (health care system), doing nothing is not an acceptable alternative.”

The Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization with over 2,200 businesses and represents over 5,200 members. These members include Albuquerque's medium and large-sized companies as well as small one-person businesses.