



# Together WE CAN!

MARCH  
2008

AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, ACCOUNTABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL PEOPLE LIVING IN NEW MEXICO

## I • N • S • I • D • E

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL  
CAMPAIGN FOCUS 2008  
Page

2

100 HEALTH CARE  
ACCESS STORIES  
---

THANKS TO OUR  
GRANTORS IN 2008  
Page

3

THANK YOU  
HEALTH ACTION NM &  
HEALTH CARE FOR ALL  
CAMPAIGN DONORS  
Page

4

WELCOME NEW  
HEALTH ACTION NM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
---

FROM THE DESK OF  
HANM'S E.D., PETER RINN  
---

EQUAL VOICES FOR  
AMERICA'S FAMILIES  
TOWN HALL  
Page

5

## 2008 Legislative Session Health Care Reform Scorecard What Passed, And What Didn't!

by Charlotte Roybal, Health Care for All Campaign Director

We at Health Action NM and the Health Care for All Campaign closely followed the major health care reform bills, but we did not track all the other health related bills. We list here health care reform bills that failed to pass, along with other health related bills that did pass as reported to us by others.

Despite the fact that no major reform bills passed, we believe the 2008 legislative session made significant progress as initial discussions about fundamental health care coverage reform because it was a priority for Governor Richardson and was widely discussed by the legislature. All involved learned a lot and there was some great debate about the many facets of this complex issue.

For those of you who read our email alerts and took action by calling, writing and visiting the legislators, we thank you. All of our voices made a big difference.

To view details and obtain copies of the bills go to [www.legjs.state.nm.us](http://www.legjs.state.nm.us).

### Health Care Reform: (none of these bills passed)

**HB 3** (Rep Gonzales) and SB 214 (Sen Cisneros) Health Security Act

**HB 37** (Rep Wirth) and SB 305 (Sen Carraro) Electronic Medical Records

**HB 62** (Rep Heaton) Health Solutions

**HB 147** (Rep Picraux) and SB 225 (Sen Feldman) Health Care Authority Act

**HB 588** (Rep Maestas) and SB 377 (Sen Ortiz Y Pino) Access to Quality Universal Health Insurance

**SB 14** (Sen Feldman) Health Recruitment and Retention

**HB 205** (Rep Foley) and SB 228 (Sen Komadina) Health Insurance Exchange Act

**SB 474** (Sen Ortiz Y Pino) Health Insurance Rulemaking and Disclosure

### Some of the health related bills that did pass and were signed by Governor Richardson include:

**HB 89** (Rep Cote) Physician Assistant Requirements

**HB 181** (Rep Varela) Behavioral Health Collaborative Reforms Act - requires the state purchasing collaborative to submit a combined behavioral health budget that identifies the part of each participating agency's budget that flows through the collaborative for behavioral health services, to develop and issue regulations on quality standards and performance measures, and to provide regular reports to the legislature.

*continued on page 2*



Charlotte Roybal, Executive Director, Health Care for All Campaign; State Senator Gerald Ortiz Y Pino; Bill Jordan, Policy Director, New Mexico Voices for Children; and, Ruth Hoffman, Director, Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry, NM, having presented their views on the legislative session, listen intently to a question from one of the more than 40 people who attended HANM's Legislative Wrap-up meeting in Albuquerque on February 28, 2008.

## What passed and what didn't *continued from page 1*

**SB 226** (Sen Feldman) Insurance Defense and Maximum Coverage Act - amends the insurance code to raise the standard of proof concerning material misstatements or omissions in individual applications for major medical health insurance and increases the minimum cap of policies issued under the Minimum Health Care Protection Act from \$50,000 to 100,000 and increases the maximum break in coverage from 63 to 95 days to be deemed a period of credible coverage.

**HB 236** (Rep Mimi Stewart) The Off Reservation Native American Health Commission Act - creates a voice for some 50,000 off reservation native americans to improve access to health care. Congratulations to Sage Council for their leadership on this bill.

**HB 546** (Rep Gail Chasey) Tobacco Settlement Funds - \$2 million for Medicaid; \$1.25 million for smoking cessation and prevention programs; and \$500,000 for diabetes prevention programs.

**SB 129** (Sen Feldman) Healthy New Mexico Task Force - under the leadership of DOH will devise a strategic plan for implementing disease prevention and chronic condition and chronic disease management measures. The plan will include prevention, case management, and primary care. Vermont started a plan several years ago like this called the Vermont Blueprint for Health" and they are making progress with some very inexpensive, common sense steps, while cutting health care costs. This could be a good beginning step toward containing costs and improving the health of New Mexicans.

**SB 391** (Sen Jennings) Revise Medical Insurance Pool Act - revises definitions and eligibility criteria; clarifying lifetime maximum benefit levels; and clarifying small group policies.

**HM 4** (Rep Picraux) and **SM 10** (Sen Ortiz Y Pino) Medicaid Recertification Pilot Project - This memorial calls on HSD to report data related to case closures and reinstatements, its current pilot project that simplifies the Medicaid eligibility recertification process, and to refrain from autoclosure of cases.

In the budget that passed:

1. Expanded health professional loan repayment program by \$480,000
2. Expanded medical student loan for services program by \$250,000
3. Funding of nursing higher education at \$100,000
4. Expansion of dental residency program at UNM by \$1 million and \$7 million in capital to begin planning for a dental school

Most crucial is the failure to expand funding for Medicaid. The legislature underfunded Medicaid by at least \$20 million and as much as \$38 million. This translates to less growth in getting people in enrolled and cuts to service areas. It is vital to fully fund Medicaid as New Mexico moves toward health care reform.

Health Action New Mexico and the Health Care for All Campaign will keep you posted as we learn more about a "special session" of the legislature to again consider health care coverage reform that Governor Richardson plans to convene this summer. ■



Together We Can • Juntos Podemos

## Health Care for All Campaign Focus for 2008

The focus of the Health Care for All Campaign in 2008 will be on:

- Mobilizing and expanding the voices calling for health care reform
- Strengthening partnerships
- Supporting enrollment in existing programs
- Empowering local leadership
- Engaging stakeholders
- Communicating the need for health care reform
- Policy and legal research of issues
- Continuing to educate the public, legislators and government officials

The HCFA Steering Committee is meeting in early April to prioritize campaign activities for the remainder of the year. We will keep you informed as the work of the Campaign unfolds throughout the year. When called upon, your active participation in the Campaign will be vital to its success. Please join us by contacting Charlotte Roybal at [Roybalhanm@aol.com](mailto:Roybalhanm@aol.com) or calling us at 1-505-930-0563.



Medical student Gabriel Paley, Dixon resident Billie Bolton, and League of Women Voter's representative Gayle Prinkley ask questions of the panel at HANM's Legislative Wrap-up Meeting in Albuquerque on February 28, 2008.



## 100 Health Care Access Stories (YOURS!)

**Health Action New Mexico wants to hear from you. If you, a family member, a relative or a friend have suffered serious adverse health consequences caused by a delay in diagnosis or treatment because of a lack of insurance or other health care access issue, please email Peter Rinn at [peterrinn@healthactionnm.org](mailto:peterrinn@healthactionnm.org) with your story.**

Please list a phone number for follow-up purposes if necessary. We will not publish names unless we receive specific permission to use them.

We want to build a story bank with, at least, one hundred of your experiences by May 31st. But, we can't do it without your help. Your stories will make a difference. Don't delay, please send in your stories now.

Examples of stories that we have already received:

"My son died from colon cancer at the age of 26 because he did not have health insurance."

"On Thanksgiving morning of 2007 our daughter died in her sleep from a gastric bleed. She was 31 years old, mentally and physically handicapped. She was scheduled to have a barium swallow the next morning. For some unknown reason her insurance carrier required a prior authorization for this procedure, which took almost 3 weeks to obtain. This is a simple test that should not need a prior approval. Had we known that her difficulty in swallowing could have been the harbinger of her untimely death, I would have questioned the delay regarding her test."

"Sure—I am a New Mexican resident WITH health insurance—but when I asked the doctor about the colonoscopy procedure—he said, depending on complications it could cost between \$2,500 and \$20,000. Since I have to pay a percentage of that, I could not afford the worst case scenario—so I'll go without recommended early prostate cancer detection for the time being."

***Together We Can! - ¡Juntos Podemos!***

---

## Thanks to Our Grantors in 2008

Health Action New Mexico is receiving funding from the following grantors to support our work on health care reform and to turn the dream of health care for all persons living in New Mexico into a reality:

- **Public Welfare Foundation** - two year grant in support of HANM and the Health Care for All Campaign
- **Con Alma Health Foundation** - in support of HANM and the Health Care for All Campaign
- **Ben & Jerry's Foundation** - in support of HANM and the Health Care for All Campaign
- **McCune Charitable Foundation** - in support of expanded work with small businesses and stakeholders
- **Nathan Cummings** - in support of HANM and the Health Care for All Campaign
- **New Mexico Community Foundation, New Mexico Community Aids Partnership, National Aids Fund and the Elton John Aids Foundation** - in support of outreach to the aids community
- **United Way of Central New Mexico** - technology assistance

# Donors Supporting the Health Care for All Campaign

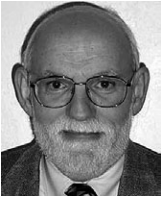
Sponsored by Health Action New Mexico / July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

TOGETHER WE CAN ~ JUNTOS PODEMOS

Paul F. Abrams	Drs. David and Eve Espey	Jim Loughren and	Stanley Rosebud Rosen
James M. Allman	Helene K. Fellen	Rosemarie Zmuda	Arthur M. Rosenberg, MD
Dr. John and Judith Americks	Cheryl A. Ferguson	Bernadette Lujan	Charlotte Roybal
Gary and Rhonda Anderson	Joseph and Dora Fidel	People Living Through	Nella Sanchez Cook
Pamela L. Angell	Katherine A. Ganz, MD	Cancer, Inc.	Saverio Sava, MD
Jean Apgar	Beverly Garcia	Wayne and Jolene Maes	Arthur A. Schreiber
Dr. Donald and Elizabeth	New Mexico Legislative Reports	Marie Manthey	Victoria Scott
Armstrong	Harold Gershenson	Carol J. March	Anne R. Simpson
Louis A. Barraclough	Rosalind and Lawrence Gibel	Marita Marshall	Maureen D. Small
Pat Bartels and Tommy	Todd A. Goldblum and	Regina Martinez	Ida M. Smelser
Hufnagel	Barbara L. Einhorn	Sara H. McGee	Frank and Christine Smith
Tommy's Nob Hill Auto Body,	David Goldstein and	Anne D. McGoey	Pat Simmons
Inc.	Judith Anderson	John and Ethel Melewski	Anne R. Simpson
Beverly Bien	Dr. Maria D. and Robert Goldstein	Bernard and Mary Metzgar	Ralph and Helen Snoko
La Vida Felicidad, Inc.	Linda Gonzales	Karen J. Meyers	Chris Snyder
Morrie Blumberg	Linda J. Goodman	Barbara P. Michaels	Frank L. Spring
Elspeth G. Bobbs	Robert E. Greenberg, MD	Steve Moffat	Madeline Stark
Philip and Barbara Bock	Mary Grube	Andrew and Janett Montano	Pat and Luis Stelzner
Tiska Blankenship	Arlene Harmon	Erin Moody	Dr. Leonard Stitelman
First Unitarian Church of	Harriet Kott Held, MD	Explorabilities, Inc.	Patrick Sullivan and Pia Salazar
Albuquerque	Karen Heldmeyer and	Morgan & Macy Attorneys,	Manjeet K. Tangri
Billie Bolton	Russ Mosteller	Limited	J. Paul Taylor
Jan L. Bray	Linda G. Hemphill, P.C.	Marvin Moss	Susan and Allan M. Taylor
Heather Brewer	Matt Henderson	Kathleen B. Neely	Gayle Thompson
JJ or Jean Brody	New Mexico ACORN	Hanh Nguyen	Jack and Mary Thomsen
Arthur E. Brown, MD	Phyllis Hersh	Nirvana Manana Institute	Patrick Tyrrell
Robert and Phyllis Brown	Dr. Frank and Zora Hesse	Beverly Nomberg	National Association of Social
David M. Brugge	Albert and Alice Hiat	La Familia Inc.	Workers-NM
Dominic Cappello	Jonas Z. Hines	J. N. O'Hara	John T. Tyson, MD
Mary Lou Carson	Patrick Hudson	Nancy Oriola	William Ulwelling, MD
Sister Linda Chavez	Hank Hughes	Decades, LLC	University of New Mexico
Peter Chestnut	New Mexico Coalition To End	Fonda L. Osborn	Frances H. Varela
Terri Christiansen	Homelessness	John and Suzanne Otter	Garcia & Vargas, LLC
Billie Clark	Mark and Madelyn Iris	Carole Owens	Ray M. Vargas
Partnership for a Healthy	Eloy and Judy Jo Jaramillo	Michael C. Parks	Garcia & Vargas, LLC
Torrance County	Louise B. Kahn	Bert Parnall	Henry and Frances Vasquez
Carol J. Condie	Kathryn Keith	Lydia Pendley	Christina Vento, MD
Camy Condon	Rita L. Kie	Sandra Penn, M.D.	John J. Vittal
Sarah B. Couch	Maria and Edward Kompare	Dolores C. Penrod	Zanier Vivian
Philip B. Davis	Helen Lakatos	Carol M. Pierce and	Susan E. Walton
Drs. Mary L. De Luca and	Church Women United in New	Chris Philips	Charles I. Welborn
James Goodman	Mexico	Norah Pierson	Julie Ahern Wild
Winnie Devore	Debra Landau	The Golden Eye	Harry G. Willson
Caterina Di Palma	Aquila Arts LLC	Diane Pinkey	Alexander Wold
Mim and James Dixon	Craig Steven Landers	J. E. and Mandy Pino	Alexander Wold & Assoc.
Barbara Dua	Ann Lavezo	Dixie Lee Powell	James Wright and
New Mexico Conference of	Allan L. Levine	Brandi Prince	Denise Hammer
Churches	Michael W. Lilley, P.A.	Margaret Prince	Eileen D. Yager, MD
Bella and R. J. Duffy	Lilley Law Office	Ronald and Viera Proulx	Kim Zamarin
Stephen Durkovich	Imogene Lindsay	Lissa Reidel and Orlando	
Law Office of Stephen	Lucy R. Lippard	Leibovitz	
Durkovich	Robert B. Loftfield	Lorraine F. Roff	

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

## Meet the NEW Health Action NM Executive Director



### Peter E. Rinn, J.D.

Peter joined HANM in January 2008 and comes to the organization with several years experience in leading nonprofit organizations and is well acquainted with the challenges facing health care delivery in the United States and New Mexico having previously represented:

- migrant laborers in Colorado
- the Medicaid and mental health programs in Kansas
- community mental health and developmental disability centers in Illinois
- the American Cancer Society in Indiana and
- ex-offenders in New Mexico.

Peter also has been active in working on minority issues and was a founding faculty member of The Institute for Healing Racism in Muskegon, MI and served on the Police Review Board for the City of Muskegon.

Peter spent his high school years in Clovis and is a graduate of the University of New Mexico. He received his law degree from the University of Colorado and practiced law in Kansas for 17 years before working for various nonprofits in the Midwest. He returned to New Mexico in 2002 and, most recently, served as the Executive Director of Dismas House New Mexico for four years.

### *From the Desk of the HANM Executive Director*

Welcome to the March 2008 edition of *Together We Can*.

This is an exciting time to be involved with health care reform in New Mexico. It is no longer a question of "if" but one of "when".

The Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee's report to the governor and legislature issued in August of last year set in motion a flurry of activity at the 2008 legislative session. Although several of the health care reform bills supported by the Health Care for All Campaign and the Governor's bill did not pass, the issue remains a high priority with the governor and undoubtedly will be on the agenda of the 2009 legislative session (or earlier if the governor calls for a special session this summer).

Even if a special session isn't convened, the pace of the Health Care for All Campaign activities is quickening this year as the Campaign focuses on key priorities - see article on page 2. The Campaign has adopted an ambitious agenda and will need the support of all of us if we are to succeed.

I invite our non-member readership to become members of Health Action New Mexico and, if not already, to become active participants in the Health Care for All Campaign. This is an opportunity for you to be at the center of health care reform in New Mexico and shape its future. Come join us. Help turn the dream into a reality - together we can!

*Peter Rinn*

### Equal Voices for America's Families TOWN HALL

To build a family issues platform for America

#### April 9, 2008

5:30pm Registration / 6pm til 9pm Family discussions  
South Broadway Cultural Center / 1025 Broadway SE,

#### ALBUQUERQUE

For information or to preregister, contact:  
phines44@aol.com or 298-0577

#### May 6, 2008

5:00pm Registration / 5:30pm Roundtables  
7:00pm - 8:30pm Reports to Policy Makers  
El Museo Cultural / 1615-B Paseo de Peralta, SANTA FE

For information or to preregister, contact:  
Hayes Lewis at hlewis@iaia.edu



### HEALTH ACTION NEW MEXICO

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Steve Moffat  
President

Beverly Bien  
Vice President

Lydia Pendley  
Secretary

Nancy Oriola  
Treasurer

Pat Bartels

Ellen Costilla

Cathy Hope

Richard Mason

Hanh Nguyen

Patrick Tyrrell

Mandy Pino  
Ex-Officio

#### STAFF:

Peter E. Rinn, J.D.  
Executive Director,  
Health Action New Mexico

Charlotte Roybal  
Executive Director,  
Health Care For All

Judy Jo Jaramillo  
Fiscal/Administrative Manager

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 460  
Bernalillo, NM 87004

Office:  
336 N. Camino Del Pueblo  
Bernalillo, NM  
87004-6149

505 / 867-1095

email: info@  
healthactionnm.org

website: www.  
healthactionnm.org

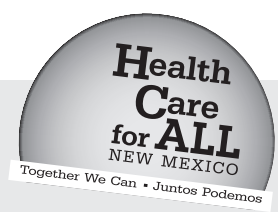


Health Action New Mexico  
 P.O. Box 460  
 Bernalillo, NM 87004  
 505.867-1095  
 info@healthactionnm.org  
 www.healthactionnm.org

NONPROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 ABQ, NM  
 PERMIT NO. 1453

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TOGETHER WE CAN! BECOME A MEMBER OF HEALTH ACTION NEW MEXICO AND JOIN THE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN.



**Support the work of Health Action NM & the Health Care For All Campaign with your \$\$\$'s or your time or both!!**



AFFORDABLE  
 ACCESSIBLE  
 ACCOUNTABLE  
 HEALTH CARE  
 FOR ALL PEOPLE  
 LIVING IN  
 NEW MEXICO

**YES!! I WANT TO HELP FURTHER THE WORK OF HEALTH ACTION NEW MEXICO!**

Enclosed is my contribution of:

- \$50 for organizations/businesses       \$30 per individual/couple
- \$15 senior/student                               \$\_\_\_\_\_ other
- Please keep me on your mailing list (a donation is not mandatory, but is appreciated)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(h) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(w) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: "Health Action New Mexico"  
 and mail to: P.O. Box 460, Bernalillo, NM 87004  
 Questions? Call us at 505-867-1095 or email us at info@healthactionnm.org  
 Health Action New Mexico is the fiscal sponsor and lead organization for the Health Care for All Campaign.

**TAKE ACTION NOW!!**

- BECOME A HEALTH CARE FOR ALL ADVOCATE.
- TALK TO YOUR SENATOR, REPRESENTATIVE AND THE GOVERNOR ABOUT YOUR DESIRE FOR REAL REFORM OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND A MODEL THAT ADDRESSES THE RISING COST OF HEALTH CARE.
- SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN WITH NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS, CHURCH GROUPS ETC.
- HELP SET UP A PRESENTATION ON THE HCFA CAMPAIGN FOR YOUR COMMUNITY GROUPS (HCFA STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS CAN HELP YOU WITH THIS).
- RESPOND TO ACTION REQUESTS FROM THE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN.