



*Invites you to join us for the*

## ***19<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Policy Forum***

# **Beyond Resilience Towards Hope**

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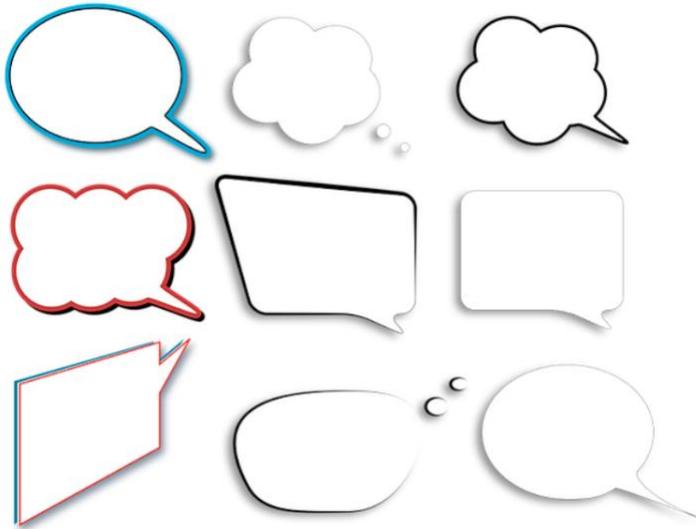
Friday, December 2nd, 2022  
9 AM - 3 PM

FREE Virtual event

Featuring: Legislative Panel, Policy Proposals,  
& HM2 Task Force Update



## About the NMPHA Health Policy Forum



Each year, the New Mexico Public Health Association (NMPHA) convenes the Health Policy Forum to bring together organizations and individuals involved and interested in health policy and/or advocating for specific legislative initiatives at the upcoming New Mexico Legislative session.

The Forum provides an opportunity to share potential and proposed legislation, to build alliances and find partners, and to learn more about the legislative process in New Mexico.



We appreciate your participation, your advocacy, and your partnership in supporting health equity in New Mexico!



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<http://www.nmpa.org/>

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**American Heart Association:** Increase tobacco taxes

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** Increase tobacco taxes, including on cigarettes and e-cigarettes; closing casino exemption in the clean indoor air act; and increase funding for tobacco prevention and education.

**Background:** New Mexico has one of the lowest taxes on e-cigarettes and the third highest usage of e-cigarettes among our high school students, while our funding for tobacco prevention and education has been cut in half in the last several years. Given the pandemic and all tribal casinos going smoke-free, it's time to repeal the racino exemption in the Dee Johnson Clean Indoor Air Act and make all five state-licensed racinos (casinos) smoke free. Currently, these five racinos allow smoking in their establishments, exposing hundreds of employees to second-hand smoking.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Bill drafted

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Potential sponsors

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** American Heart Association and American Cancer Society - Cancer Action Network

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** ACS-CAN; ALA, American Pediatric Society, New Mexico Chronic Disease Prevention Council

**Contact person(s):** Mahesh Sita



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[www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)



**Casa de Salud:** Access to MAT for people who are incarcerated

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** New Mexico should require that all incarcerated individuals with OUD in the state's prisons and jails have voluntary access to all forms of MAT while incarcerated and on release to the community.

**Background:** Individuals recently released from the New Mexico Corrections Department are over 11 times more likely to die from drug overdose compared to the state's general population. The FDA has approved three medications - methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone - for medication assisted treatment (MAT) of opioid use disorder (OUD), and research has shown that these medications reduce recidivism, reduce recurrence of substance use, and greatly reduce overdose and death. Yet, few state correctional systems guarantee access to these medications for incarcerated individuals with opioid use disorder.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Still in planning/discussion phase

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** n/a yet

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** n/a yet

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** Casa de Salud is working with various stakeholders, including faculty at University of New Mexico. We are also engaging in discussions with a number of lawmakers and legal organizations about this cause.

**Contact person(s):** Nathan Birnbaum



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**Equality New Mexico:** Include questions of gender identity and sexuality in state agency forms

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** This bill aims to include questions of gender identity and sexuality in state agency forms where questions of race, ethnicity, etc. are also included for demographic data collection.

**Background:** Governor MLG issued an executive order regarding SoGi data collection, which means this is already happening but we want to ensure that this is law so that it is protected under any administration.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Still in planning/discussion phase; Bill drafted

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** n/a yet

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** n/a yet

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** LGBTQ Round Table coalition partners

**Contact person(s):** Victor Hernandez



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<https://eqnm.org/>



## Gallup Alcohol Policy Working Group and ABC (Alb. & Bern Co) Prevention

**Community Coalition:** Increase alcohol taxes

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** Increase state alcohol taxes to reduce alcohol-related harms

**Background:** New Mexico has one of the Nation's highest levels of alcohol-related problems and raising the alcohol excise tax by 25 cents a drink will save lives, reduce health care costs, create and preserve jobs, and prevent alcohol-related problems. Our state has the highest alcohol-related death rate in the country. In 2020, almost 2,000 New Mexicans died from alcohol-related causes. Excessive alcohol use costs New Mexicans \$1.8 billion per year (in 2014), the equivalent of \$2.36 per drink and \$960 per person per year while the 2014 NM alcohol tax ranges from 1 cent for micro-beer to 22 cents for 5oz. of fortified wine. A 25 cent per drink increase in NM's alcohol excise tax would result in at least \$154M in new state revenue and an additional \$187M total cost savings for NM's economy, and would result in a 10% decrease in alcohol consumption.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Presented to interim committees; Bill drafted; Have sponsor

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Rep. Joanne Ferrary, Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Sen. Ortiz y Pino

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** Gallup Alcohol Policy Working Group and other concerned public health and health care professionals

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** Please join this effort!

**Contact person(s):** Rep. Joanne Ferrary, Laura Tomedi, Shelley Mann-Lev



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## Health Action NM: A Prescription Drug Affordability Board

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** A Prescription Drug Affordability Board, with the authority to negotiate on consumers' behalf, hold drug companies accountable, and incentivize lower prices will help ensure access to affordable medications.

**Background:** NM Consumers for Affordable Prescriptions is a coalition of health experts, patient advocates, consumers, and faith and labor constituencies. We are urging our representatives to create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB), an independent body with the authority to negotiate on consumers' behalf, hold drug companies accountable, and incentivize lower prices. A PDAB will help ensure that all New Mexicans have access to affordable medications. It would expand on the recommendations of the Governor's Prescription Drug Task Force by incorporating three foundational principles: transparency in drug pricing, ending profiteering, and creating an independent body with expertise, focus and a mission to negotiate fairer and more affordable prescription drugs for New Mexico consumers. Seven states (MD, CO, ME, OR, NH, WA, OH) have PDAB's already.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Bill drafted

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Representative Rubio

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** Health Action New Mexico

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** See <https://newmexicocap.org/endorsements/> for our coalition partners.

**Contact person(s):** Melissa Bernardin



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<https://newmexicocap.org/>



**New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence:** Create Office of Gun Violence Prevention & raise purchase age on certain rifles

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** NMPGV will be advocating for an Office of Gun Violence Prevention. A growing number of states are investing in state level offices of gun violence prevention. These offices build the infrastructure to effectively address the crisis of gun violence in a comprehensive manner grounded in public health. To date, at least five states have created offices of gun violence prevention, including neighboring Colorado. Multiple states are considering such proposals. We are also advocating for a law to raise the age for purchasing certain types of rifles to 21 years of age.

**Background:** NMPGV has been advocating for gun violence prevention laws since 2014. We have successfully passed a background check law, domestic firearms relinquishment law and an Extreme Risk Protection law.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Presented to interim committees; Bill drafted; Have sponsor. We are convening a stakeholders table on December 8th. It will be facilitated by NMPGV and Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Senator Duhigg and Representative Hochman Vigil for the Office and Representative Szczepanski and Senator Hamblen to raise age on certain rifles

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** Miranda Viscoli, Sheila Lewis, Ann Maxwell

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** Giffords Law Center and John Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions

**Contact person(s):** Miranda Viscoli



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[www.newmexicanstopreventgunviolence.org](http://www.newmexicanstopreventgunviolence.org)



**New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils:** Increase Health Council funding to \$6.3 million

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** \$6.3 million dollars (\$125,000 to each health council plus \$800,000 to the Alliance) in the SFY2024 budget, allowing Health Councils to fulfill public health functions as stated in the County and Tribal Health Council Act (HB137)

**Background:** Health Councils play an essential role by mobilizing communities to address the needs of residents by conducting health assessments leading to the development of health equity priorities, and goals and strategies to address those priorities. Despite state statute specifying the essential role of Health Councils in the NM public health infrastructure, Health Councils have been largely underfunded since 2013. Health Councils have been receiving only 3-7% of what is considered an evidence-based adequate level of funding, making it difficult to carry out essential tasks. Thus, overall funding of \$6.3 million dollars will help ensure that vital tasks and mandates requested by the state are performed and communities can address the health equity issues they identify as most important.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Still in planning/discussion phase; Presented to interim committees; Requested appropriation; Currently in discussion with potential bill sponsors

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** In process

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** The New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils (NMAHC) will provide limited lobbying. There are over 75 organizations that have signed on to a letter of support for the bill; the letter of support was sent to the Governor and LFC in October 2022.

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** New Mexico Public Health Association, NMSU, UNM, , Presbyterian Health Plan, Presbyterian Health Services, Blue Cross Blue Shield, American Heart Association, Pueblo de San Ildefonso Tribal Health Council, and multiple county and tribal health councils.

**Contact person(s):** Susan Wilger, Interim Executive Director



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<https://www.nmhealthcouncils.org/>



**New Mexico Allied Council on Tobacco (NMACT):** Support commercial tobacco prevention and cessation funding.

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** Support commercial tobacco prevention and cessation funding.

**Background:** The funds from the Tobacco Settlement should go towards funding commercial tobacco prevention and cessation.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Presented to interim committees

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Unsure right now but supported by the Tobacco Revenue Oversight Committee

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** New Mexico Allied Council on Tobacco - Andreas Loeser

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** Partners under the NMACT, ALA, AHA, ACS

**Contact person(s):** Janna Vallo



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<https://newmexicoact.org/>



**NMACT:** Increase tobacco taxes

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** Support increasing the rate of the cigarette tax, increasing the rate of tax on tobacco products, including nicotine, regardless of source.

**Background:** Increasing the tax on tobacco products is an evidence-based strategy to reduce tobacco use among new smokers and young smokers. By decreasing the use of commercial tobacco products at a young age, this can have a significant impact in decreasing the smoking rate among young smokers.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Bill drafted

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** n/a yet

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** New Mexico Allied Council on Tobacco - Andreas Loeser

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** NMACT partners, ACS, ALA, AHA

**Contact person(s):** Janna Vallo



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<https://newmexicoact.org/>



**NMACT | Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation:** Repeal preemption provisions of the NM Tobacco Products Act

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** Legislation repealing state preemption provisions of the NM Tobacco Products Act to allow local cities and municipalities to adopt tobacco regulations including retail licensing and marketing ordinances

**Background:** The NM Tobacco Product Act –§61-37-24 currently includes a statewide preemption provision which limits local municipalities from adopting ordinances specific to their unique demographics and communities. Repealing the preemption provision would allow municipalities to adopt ordinances specific to tobacco control and public health initiatives that regulate the sale, marketing, and distribution of tobacco products within these communities. States that do not have preemption with respect to tobacco regulations fare better in a number of public health outcome measures, including lower rates of smoking among both youth and adult populations, greater youth access restrictions, and lower tobacco retail densities leading to better health outcomes (higher age of onset/initiation of tobacco use; higher cessation rates; lower burden of chronic disease related to tobacco use, etc.)

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Presented to interim committees; Bill drafted; Legislation has been adopted and endorsed by the Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee. Potential individual sponsors on TRSOC committee.

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Potential for Sen Hickey or Rep Ferrary to sponsor based on TRSOC committee endorsement of PTAF/NMACT draft language.

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** New Mexico Allied Council on Tobacco, Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation; potential national public health partners.

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** American Cancer Society; American Lung Association; Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, American Heart Association; Americans for Nonsmoker's Rights Foundation; others TBA

**Contact person(s):** Megan Boelter; Laurel McKloskey



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<https://newmexicoact.org/>  
<https://tobacco21.org/>



**New Mexico Caregivers in Action: DD Waivers Direct Support Professional Wage Transparency Act**

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** Developmental Disabilities Waivers Direct Support Professional Wage Transparency Act

**Background:** This bill has two basic components. First, it requires provider agencies (employers) to submit workforce data to the state Department of Health-Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) annually (volume, stability, and compensation). Second, this bill amends the State's Developmental Disabilities Waiver Act section on determination of rates for payment for support and services. The bill requires that cost studies be performed every two years. And the cost studies value the Direct Support Professional salary at 150% of the state minimum wage.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Have sponsor; Bill in process of drafting with LHHS staff for presentation at endorsement meeting

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Senator Ortiz y Pino

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** Pamela Stafford, New Mexico Caregivers in Action

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers, The Arc NM, NM Center on Law and Poverty, Encuentro, NM Association of Home and Hospice Care, El Centro.

**Contact person(s):** Pamela Stafford



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<https://nmcareaction.org/>



**NM Coalition to End Homelessness:** Support Built for Zero to eliminate homelessness

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** Built for Zero: To eliminate both Veteran and Chronic Homelessness Statewide

**Background:** This is happening in communities throughout the U.S. There is no logical explanation why we can't achieve this in New Mexico.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Still in planning/discussion phase

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Rep. Andrea Romero, hopefully

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** Linda Siegle

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** NAACP. Santa Fe Branch #6109; Alliance for Local Economic Prosperity

**Contact person(s):** Hank Hughes



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[www.nmceh.org](http://www.nmceh.org)



## **New Mexico Environmental Public Health Network (program of NM Voices for Children):** Support the New Mexico Climate Public Health Act

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** The New Mexico Climate Public Health Act, which will accomplish two key initiatives: 1) Creating a Climate and Public Health Program at the Department of Health to build capacity and expertise, and 2) support development and implementation of response systems and improve interagency collaboration.

**Background:** Climate change is increasingly harming the health of New Mexicans, and the rate of extreme weather events caused by climate change such as heat waves, drought and flooding, and wildfires and air pollution is quickly accelerating. Over the next 50 years, the state will see an increased risk of drought, leading to dryer soil, less snowpack, stressed vegetation, and a substantial decline in river flows. New Mexico also ranks as the state most vulnerable to climate change across a variety of social, demographic, and environmental vulnerability measures. New Mexico's communities of color, older adults, young children, people with disabilities, and families earning low incomes are most likely to be hurt by these circumstances and most likely to suffer serious, immediate, and long-term health consequences. Protecting New Mexicans from the ravages of extreme weather, food and water scarcity, air pollution, and other climate-related problems will support health equity and make our state stronger.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Bill drafted; Have sponsor

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Senator Liz Stefanics, Rep. Liz Thomson

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** Charles Goodmacher

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** Moms Clean Air Force, Conservation Voters of New Mexico, Natural Resources Defense Council

**Contact person(s):** Amy Miller



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[www.nmephn.org](http://www.nmephn.org)



**NM Green Amendment:** Support a constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** The New Mexico Green Amendment will add to the Bill of Rights section of our constitution a constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment.

**Background:** By placing environmental rights in our constitution's Bill of Rights we are ensuring they are given the same legal and constitutional standing as other inalienable rights that are just as important and to protect the rights of our people to clean water and air, a healthy climate and environment. The Green Amendment will not undermine the economic development in our state, it will just make sure that economic, industry and business growth has to protect our environment.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Presented to interim committees; Bill drafted; Have sponsor

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Rep. Joanne Ferrary and Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** Sierra Club and Center for Civic Policy

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** Center for Civic Policy, Environmental Justice Caucus, and others

**Contact person(s):** Rep. Joanne J. Ferrary and Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez



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<https://nmgreenamendment.org>



**New Mexico Podiatric Medical Association:** Memorial to gather data on patients receiving podiatric care & fiscal impact of eliminating or equalizing copayments

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** Memorial to study and compile data on the number of individuals receiving care from podiatric providers for lower extremity vascular disease and diabetes, the number and type of complications that patients in that group have suffered as a result of those illnesses, and the projected fiscal impact that eliminating insurance copayments for visits to podiatric care providers would have on health insurance consumers and health insurance providers.

**Background:** Consumer Insurance copays continue to escalate often greater than \$50 per visit up to \$120 for Podiatric Provider visits. These high copays pose financial barriers to consumers at high risk of health complications. As a step prior to legislation equalizing copays to primary care providers, we're needing to gather supporting data and request assistance via DOH and DOI.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Still in planning/discussion phase; have sponsor

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Marian Matthews

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** John Anderson and Cris Balzano

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** New Mexico Medical Association

**Contact person(s):** Janet Simon



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**New Mexico Thrives:** Revise anti-donation clause; enable nonprofits to access state funds

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** Two bills: a rewrite of the anti-donation clause to modernize the language; and enabling legislation outlining the process for nonprofits to access state funds.

**Background:** The anti-donation clause was intended to protect state resources for the people of New Mexico, but it has been used to keep state funds from the people of New Mexico. It is too often a barrier to good work getting done. It was written to address problems that occurred in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Bill drafted; have sponsor

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** Senator Ivey-Soto and Senator Ortiz y Pino

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** New Mexico Thrives

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** The Counties Association, Bernalillo County, the SW Council of Governments, and a number of nonprofits have all been part of the working group to develop the bills.

**Contact person(s):** Tsiporah Nephesh



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[www.nmthrives.org](http://www.nmthrives.org)



**NM Together for Healthcare Campaign:** Open up the Medicaid income cap, Medicaid buy-in, and increase in provider rates

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** "Medicaid Forward" would use existing federal law to open up Medicaid's income cap, let individuals and families buy into the Medicaid program, and use new federal revenue to increase provider rates.

**Background:** Every New Mexican deserves access to affordable, quality healthcare coverage. Unfortunately, existing options on the Exchange or offered by employers are often unaffordable or may not cover many of the services and providers our families need. "Medicaid Forward" would use existing federal law to open up Medicaid's income cap, let individuals and families buy into the Medicaid program, and use new federal revenue associated with new enrollees to increase provider reimbursement rates. To ensure the feasibility of this initiative, the Human Services Department would be tasked with thoroughly studying new costs and federal revenue associated with this initiative, the provider reimbursement rates needed to make this initiative possible, and other logistics. New Mexico can lead the country in making game-changing reforms that lower healthcare costs and shape the movement for affordable, quality healthcare for all..

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Still in planning/discussion phase; Presented to interim committees

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** n/a yet

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** NM Together for Healthcare's steering team organizations: NM Center on Law & Poverty, Strong Families NM, Casa de Salud, Health Action NM

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** NM Asian Family Center, NM Voices for Children, Primary Care Advocates for Healthy Communities, Center for Civic Policy

**Contact person(s):** Nicolas Cordova



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<https://nmtogether4health.org/>



**Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico:** Modernize existing legislation to remove the publication component of the name change process

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** Given safety is a social determinant of health, we must modernize existing legislation (NMSA 40-8-1 & 40-8-2) to protect our communities, removing the publication component of the name change process.

**Background:** With laws dating to 1889, that have not been revisited since 2001, we must prioritize straightforward legislation and modernize existing requirements to protect our most vulnerable communities: domestic violence victims and gender non-conforming people. Any individual seeking to change their name in the state of New Mexico must publish a newspaper notice, thereby compromising their safety and well-being. As we streamline this process, lacking in controversy, we center our most defenseless communities and move towards a future of possibilities.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Still in planning/discussion phase; Bill drafted; Have sponsor

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** We have a sponsor, however the information is not yet public

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** Equality New Mexico (EQNM), Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico (TGRCNM)

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** We are partnering with multiple organizations, however the information is not yet public

**Contact person(s):** Christine Armstrong



[www.tgrcnm.org](http://www.tgrcnm.org)



**UNM Health Sciences Center:** Advance environmental justice through increased environmental monitoring and GIS-based data mapping; increase funding for NMED

**Description of Proposed Legislation:** We are seeking to draft and pass legislation that will increase funding for NMED, which has been chronically underfunded (Danielle Prokop, Source NM, January 18, 2022), and help fund partnerships with academia, NGOs, and local communities in the South Valley and the Pueblo of Isleta to address emerging toxic pollutants in NM's waterways.

**Background:** Together, we are building research capacity and broadening public participation and community engagement through the New Mexico Toxic Pollutant Working Group with a special focus on environmental monitoring and regulation of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the Rio Grande at Valle de Oro. According to a recent report in Santa Fe Reporter and NM PBS, environmental reporter Laura Paskus observed, based on USGS data: "The highest levels, 153.2 parts per trillion of various PFAS combined, were found in the waters of the Rio Grande at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in Albuquerque's South Valley" (January 19, 2021). Our goal is to advance environmental justice (EJ) through increased environmental monitoring and GIS-based data mapping in ways that will support and galvanize NMED strategies of environmental regulation of PFAS and other toxic pollutants threatening New Mexico's surface and groundwater resources.

**Where is this issue in the legislative process?** Still in planning/discussion phase

**Who will sponsor this legislation?** n/a yet

**Is there someone (individual or organization) who will lobby for this initiative?** n/a yet

**What other organizations are working with you to support this legislation?** NIEHS-funded P30 Center of Excellence in the College of Pharmacy at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC), Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), Friends of the Valle de Oro, New Mexico Environmental Law Center (NMELC), Amigos Bravos, US Geological Survey, and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

**Contact person(s):** Thomas De Pree



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