



Strong Families New Mexico Legislative Report Card 2015





Strong Families New Mexico
strongfamiliesmovement.org/new-mexico



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Executive Summary

Strong Families New Mexico, a state-based action site of Forward Together, works to shift culture and create policies that recognize the many kinds of families in our state. We are a network of over 150 organizations and thousands of individuals working to build a better life for all our families and generations to come. Strong Families' vision is that every family has the rights, recognition, and resources it needs to thrive.

The Strong Families New Mexico Legislative Report Card examines 18 pieces of legislation introduced during the 2015 legislative session and grades individual legislators. The legislation selected reflects a wide range of issues, affects families of many formations, and connects to our Strong Families policy criteria. We evaluated legislation in five categories: civil rights and criminal justice, economic justice, education equity, health equity, and anti-family legislation.

STRONG FAMILIES LEGISLATION		Died in Committee	Passed House	Passed Senate	Vetoed by Governor	Enacted into Law
CIVIL RIGHTS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE	HB 560 Unlawful to "Police for Profit"		✓	✓		✓
	SB 643 Updates Voter Registration Laws		✓	✓		✓
	SM 59 Language Access in State Services			✓		
	HB 249 16- and 17-Year-Olds to Vote In School Elections	✗				
	SB 136 Sexual Assault Prevention	✗				
ECONOMIC JUSTICE	HM 2 Paid Parental Leave		✓			
	SB 34 Broadband Infrastructure	✗				
	HB 24 Caps on Payday Loans	✗				
EDUCATION EQUITY	SB 381 Bullying Prevention		✓	✓		✓
	SB 361 Education for People Incarcerated			✓		
	SJR 5 Early Childhood Education Fund	✗				
HEALTH EQUITY	SB 42 Medicaid for People Incarcerated		✓	✓		✓
	HB 108 Behavioral Health Services		✓	✓	✗	
	HB 494 Uranium Health Study	✗				
	SB 44 School Health Centers	✗				
ANTI-FAMILY LEGISLATION		Died in Committee	Passed House	Passed Senate	Vetoed by Governor	Enacted into Law
ANTI-FAMILY	HB 32 Two-Tiered Driver's License		✓			
	HB 390 Prohibiting Abortion Access		✓	✗		
	HB 391 Requiring Parental Notification of Abortion		✓	✗		

equity, health equity, and anti-family. Anti-family legislation, which Strong Families New Mexico opposed, would create or exacerbate inequities in our state and we consider these effects harmful to families.

The House received a D and the Senate an A+. The House passed three anti-family bills, while no anti-family bills tracked by Strong Families New Mexico passed on the Senate floor. Individual legislators are also graded for this report card. Their grades are based on how they voted for strong families and how they voted on anti-family legislation that reached a floor vote.

The legislature can do a great deal more if it wants to support families in New Mexico.

Of the 18 pieces of legislation featured in this report card, only four bills that support families were enacted into law. Some of these bills will expand government programs and services that support the wellbeing of family members, such as expanding Medicaid coverage for people who are incarcerated and increasing bullying prevention programs across the state. Other bills that passed will provide online voter registration and protect families from losing property that previously could be seized without a conviction. Policies like these address current issues and put New Mexico on the path to getting the rights and resources that our families need to survive and thrive.





The following are recommendations for state lawmakers based on the policies we tracked in the 2015 session and our vision for all families to thrive in New Mexico:

- 1. Enact policies that support families of all shapes and sizes while addressing the families most under resourced.** New Mexico is a mostly rural state with a majority of people of color. In this state, place and race impact people's everyday lives, including access to healthcare, good jobs, a living wage, voting, transportation, educational opportunities, and more. Data featured in this report shows that rural families, low-income families, and families of color, especially Native American families, are among the most marginalized. We need policies that address the needs of those most marginalized while not neglecting any family. Policies should be created to support families that are biological and chosen; families with documented, undocumented, and mixed status members; families that speak any language; family members who are incarcerated and those who are free; LGBTQ family members; and parents of any age and those without children.
- 2. Partner with community groups to create stronger policies.** Strong Families New Mexico works with over 15 partner organizations and many more allied organizations. Our work spans every issue affecting families and each organization holds knowledge, wisdom, data, stories, and solutions for how to improve the lives of people in New Mexico. We are each experts in our own lives and our own communities, and many organizations we partner with would be happy to be a resource to legislators to craft policy solutions.
- 3. Use our Strong Families Policy Criteria when crafting or revising legislation.** Our five-question policy criteria can be used by policymakers to ensure the wellbeing and outcomes for all families.

Resumen Ejecutivo

Strong Families New Mexico, un programa estatal de Forward Together, trabaja para cambiar la cultura y establecer políticas que reconozcan plenamente a los diversos tipos de familias en nuestro estado. Somos parte de una red de más de 150 organizaciones y miles de personas que, juntos, trabajamos para tratar de crear una vida mejor para todas nuestras familias y para futuras generaciones. Nuestro propósito es que cada familia tenga los derechos, el reconocimiento y los recursos que necesite para prosperar.

La Tarjeta de Calificaciones de Strong Families New Mexico examina 18 iniciativas de ley presentadas durante la sesión legislativa del 2015

y califica individualmente a todos los legisladores. Las iniciativas de ley aquí destacadas reflejan una amplia gama de temas, tiene un gran impacto en los distintos tipos de familias y son afines a los criterios de política de Strong Families. Se evaluaron las iniciativas de ley en cinco categorías: derechos civiles y justicia penal, justicia económica, la igualdad en la educación, la igualdad en servicios de salud, y las iniciativas claramente anti-familias. Las iniciativas de ley que afectarían negativamente a las familias (a las cuales Strong Families New Mexico se opuso), crearían o aumentarían las desigualdades en nuestro estado y consideramos que estos efectos son perjudiciales para todas las familias.

PROPUESTAS DE LEY A FAVOR DE LAS FAMILIAS		Murió en comité	Aprobada por la Cámara de Representantes	Aprobada por el Senado	Vetada por la Gobernadora	Promulgada como ley
DERECHOS CIVILES Y JUSTICIA PENAL	HB 560 Prohíbe a la policía incautar bienes sin existir un arresto legalmente documentado		✓	✓		✓
	SB 643 Actualizar las leyes de registración de votantes		✓	✓		✓
	SM 59 El acceso a que la información que del estado sea en tu idioma vía traducciones o interpretación en vivo			✓		
	HB 249 Para que jóvenes de 16 y 17 años puedan votar en las elecciones del consejo escolar	✗				
	SB 136 Prevención de la violencia sexual	✗				
JUSTICIA ECONÓMICA	HM 2 Proveer permisos de maternidad/paternidad pagados		✓			
	SB 34 Mejorar la infraestructura de banda ancha (Internet)	✗				
	HB 24 Ponerle un límite a los intereses de "Pay Day Loans"	✗				
EQUIDAD EDUCATIVA	SB 381 Prevención de Bullying		✓	✓		✓
	SB 361 Acceso a la Educación para las personas encarceladas			✓		
	SJR 5 Fondos para la educación temprana	✗				

PROPUESTAS DE LEY A FAVOR DE LAS FAMILIAS		Murió en comité	Aprobada por la Cámara de Representantes	Aprobada por el Senado	Vetada por la Gobernadora	Promulgada como ley
EQUIDAD EN SERVICIOS DE SALUD	SB 42 Medicaid para las personas encarceladas		✓	✓		✓
	HB 108 Servicios de salud mental		✓	✓	✗	
	HB 494 Estudio de salud sobre el efecto del uranio	✗				
	SB 44 Centros de salud escolares	✗				
INICIATIVAS DE LEY EN CONTRA DE LAS FAMILIAS		Murió en comité	Aprobada por la Cámara de Representantes	Aprobada por el Senado	Vetada por la Gobernadora	Promulgada como ley
ANTI-FAMILIAS	HB 32 Establecer dos categorías distintas de licencias para conducir		✓			
	HB 390 Prohibir el acceso al aborto		✓	✗		
	HB 391 Requerir la notificación a los padres para tener un aborto		✓	✗		

La Cámara de Representantes recibió una calificación "D" y el Senado una calificación "A+." La Cámara de Representantes aprobó tres iniciativas de ley que consideramos van en contra del bienestar de las familias o "anti-familias", en cambio, ninguna iniciativa de ley anti-familias que revisamos recibió la aprobación del Senado. Los legisladores, individualmente, también recibieron una calificación en este reporte. Sus calificaciones se basan en la forma en que votaron, a favor de las familias o en contra una vez que fue puesto a voto en ambas cámaras.

La legislatura puede hacer mucho más si realmente quiere apoyar a las familias de Nuevo México. **De las 18 iniciativas de ley destacadas en este informe, sólo cuatro de ellas que apoyan a nuestras familias llegaron a ser ley.** Algunas de estas iniciativas de ley ampliarán los programas y servicios del gobierno que apoyan el bienestar de los miembros de nuestras familias, tales como la ampliación de la cobertura de Medicaid para las personas que están encarceladas y el aumento de los programas para la prevención de "bullying" en todo el estado. Otras iniciativas de ley que aprobaron

proporcionarán el registro de votantes en línea y protegerán a las familias en peligro de perder su propiedad (que antes podían perder) aun sin haber sido oficialmente arrestado alguno de sus miembros. Éste tipo de Políticas abordan temas de importancia y ponen a Nuevo México en el camino de poder conseguir los derechos y recursos que nuestras familias necesitan para vivir y prosperar.

Las siguientes son nuestras recomendaciones para los legisladores estatales, las cuales surgieron de las políticas que monitoreamos durante la sesión del 2015 y de nuestra visión para que las familias prosperen en Nuevo México:

- 1. Establecer políticas que apoyen a las familias en todas sus formas y tamaños, dándole especial interés a las familias más marginadas.** Nuevo México es un estado mayormente rural y con una mayoría de gente de color. En este estado, el lugar en donde uno trabaja o vive y/o su raza adquiere relevancia en su vida diaria en cosas como el acceso a los servicios de salud, a los buenos trabajos, a un salario digno, a

poder votar, a los sistemas de transporte público, mejores escuelas y más. Los datos que resaltan en este informe, muestran que las familias rurales, las familias de bajos ingresos y las familias de color, sobre todo familias nativo americanas, están entre las más marginadas. Necesitamos políticas que atiendan a las necesidades de los más marginados sin descuidar a ninguna familia. Las políticas y leyes deben ser creadas para poder apoyar a todas las familias, a las que son de sangre o elegidas; a las familias con personas con documentación de inmigración o indocumentadas, personas con diferentes estatus migratorio; familias que hablen otro idioma; familias con parientes encarcelados o que están libres; familias LGBTQ; familias con padres de cualquier edad así como a las familias sin hijos.

2. Asociarse y trabajar con grupos comunitarios para crear mejores leyes y con más fuerza. Strong Families New Mexico trabaja

con más de 15 organizaciones asociadas y muchas más organizaciones aliadas. Nuestro trabajo abarca todos los temas que afectan a las familias y cada organización tiene su propio conocimiento, sabiduría, datos, historias y soluciones que aportan para poder mejorar la vida de todos en Nuevo México. Todos somos expertos en nuestras propias vidas y en nuestras comunidades y muchas de las organizaciones con las que trabajamos están dispuestas a trabajar con cualquier legislador para formular mejores soluciones políticas.

3. Utilizar el criterio establecido por Strong Families cuando se desarrollen o revisen iniciativas de ley. Nuestro criterio en política viene en cinco preguntas y puede ser utilizado por los legisladores para asegurar el bienestar y asegurar que los resultados sean positivos para todas las familias.



Introduction

Families in New Mexico, whether chosen families or families connected by blood, are strong at their core. Families are a basic building block of our communities and the support of a strong family makes it possible for people to thrive in society. As building blocks, families can become more resilient and connected through policies that are rooted in the value of people over systems and money. Families as building blocks can also weaken and break apart when systems and policies work against them rather than for them.

This is the second Strong Families New Mexico Legislative Report Card. The first report card covered the 2013 legislative session and was released in 2014. The Strong Families New Mexico Report Card seeks to inform policy makers, organizations, and community members of both the policies that promote equitable outcomes for all families and the policies that harm families. Local, state, and/or national data is used throughout the report card to illustrate the context of the policy in our current environment. Each piece of legislation featured is also connected to the families most positively or negatively affected by the policy.

Strong Families New Mexico builds power with the community by working with community leaders and members, partner organizations, and decision makers to share lived experiences and inform policy. In informing policy we want to both lift up policies that recognize and support families and address and reverse policies that hurt families. Together we can advance policies and practices that support the many types of families that are struggling to build a better life for themselves and the next generations. Together we can create a new vision for all families in New Mexico.



Defining Family in New Mexico

New Mexican families are reflective of our communities, values, culture, and experiences. Our families take many forms, including blended families, single-parent families, LGBTQ families, chosen families, multi-generational families, and multinational families. Our families are constantly evolving.

Today New Mexico families are diverse in many ways. Nearly 42% of children live in single-parent homes, and 22% of children in our state live in immigrant families.¹ Only 16% of New Mexican households are married couples living with their own children under 18 years of age.² 6% of all families and 18% of Native Americans families in New Mexico have three generations or more living under one roof.³ New Mexico ranks in the top eight states of grandparents raising grandkids.⁴ Given how diverse New Mexico families are today, state government and public policy should ensure that all families—regardless

of their formation—have equitable access to services, positive outcomes, and the right to self-determination. We should neither reward nor punish families based on their biological relationships or marital statuses, and government shouldn't be in the business of coercing particular family formations.

By seeking a definition of family that allows individuals to define their families “by blood or affinity”—we can ensure our policies meet the diverse needs of our communities. Working together, we can broaden family definitions beyond the current precedent. We can avoid excluding families that exist outside the narrative of the nuclear family, including families that are defined outside marriage. When New Mexico families, based on blood or affinity, have the rights, resources, and recognition they need to thrive, our communities and economy will benefit from the resilience and stability these families create.

Introducción

Las familias en Nuevo México son familias con fuertes lazos familiares, ya sean familias elegidas o familias consanguíneas. Estas familias son un elemento fundamental en nuestras comunidades y el apoyo a una familia posibilita que la sociedad en general prospere. Como elemento fundamental, nuestras familias pueden llegar a ser más fuertes y conectadas a través de políticas que valoren más a las personas que al dinero. Las familias también pueden ser debilitadas y fragmentadas cuando los sistemas y las leyes trabajan en su contra en vez de a su favor.

Esta es la segunda Tarjeta de Calificaciones de Strong Families New Mexico. La primera tarjeta abarcó el período legislativo 2013 y fue lanzado en 2014. La tarjeta de calificaciones pretende informar a los líderes políticos, organizaciones y miembros de la comunidad sobre las políticas que promueven resultados justos y equitativos para todas las familias tanto como las políticas que las perjudican. La información de datos locales, estatales y/o nacionales se

utilizan a través de este informe para mostrar el actual contexto político. Cada iniciativa de ley destacada aquí también está conectada con las familias más afectadas positivamente o negativamente por la política.

Strong Families New Mexico aumenta el poder de la comunidad por medio de su trabajo con líderes y miembros de la comunidad, organizaciones asociadas y con aquellos políticos que son los que toman las decisiones para poder compartir experiencias vividas. Al informar sobre el desarrollo de alguna política o ley, destacamos ambas, las iniciativas de ley que reconocen y apoyan a las familias y que se revoquen aquellas que perjudiquen a las familias. Juntos podemos promover y escribir las políticas y prácticas que apoyan a los diferentes tipos de familias que están luchando para crear una vida mejor para ellos y para las próximas generaciones. Juntos podemos crear una nueva visión para todas las familias de Nuevo México.

Definiendo “Familia” en Nuevo México

Las familias de Nuevo México reflejan nuestras comunidades, valores, cultura y experiencias. Nuestras familias vienen en diversas formas, incluyendo las familias mezcladas, familias monoparentales, familias LGBTQ, familias elegidas, las familias multi-generacionales y familias multinacionales. Nuestras familias están en una evolución constante.

Hoy en día las familias de Nuevo México son diversas en muchos sentidos. Casi el 42% de los niños viven en hogares con un solo padre o una sola madre, y el 22% de los niños de nuestro estado viven en familias de inmigrantes.¹ Sólo el 16% de los hogares nuevo mexicanos son de parejas casadas que viven con sus propios hijos.² 6% de todas las familias y el 18% de las familias nativoamericanas en Nuevo México tienen tres generaciones o más viviendo bajo el mismo techo.³ Nuevo México se ubica entre los ocho estados con un alto índice de abuelos que son los que crían a sus nietos.⁴ Dado que tan diversas son las familias de Nuevo México, el gobierno estatal y las políticas públicas deben garantizar que todas las familias - sin importar su composición, tengan acceso equitativo a los servicios, a gozar de resultados positivos, y el derecho de determinar su propio destino. No deberíamos ni premiar ni castigar a las familias basándonos en sus relaciones biológicas o estados civiles, y el gobierno no debería no debería estar en el negocio de imponer determinadas formaciones familiares.



Mediante la búsqueda de una definición de familia que le permita al individuo definirla “por sangre o afinidad” - podemos garantizar que nuestras políticas satisfagan las diversas necesidades de nuestras comunidades. Trabajando juntos, podemos ampliar las definiciones de la familia más allá de la actual costumbre, de la norma. Podemos evitar la exclusión de las familias que existen fuera de la familia nuclear (la familia que sale de un único núcleo familiar, generalmente de una madre, un padre y sus hijos) así como las familias que se definen fuera del matrimonio. Cuando TODAS las familias de Nuevo México tengan los derechos, los recursos y el reconocimiento que necesitan para prosperar, nuestras comunidades y la economía serán beneficiadas por la estabilidad y adaptabilidad que estas familias demuestran.

Methodology on Chamber and Legislator Grades

During the 2015 regular session, 1,731 bills were introduced and fewer than 25% were enacted into law.⁵ Strong Families New Mexico (SFNM) and our Legislative Working Group partners tracked 150 pieces of legislation during the 2015 session. Each of these bills met at least one of the Strong Families policy criteria.

At the start of the session, Strong Families New Mexico sent letters to legislators letting them know about the 2015 Legislative Report Card.

We asked for bill submissions and shared examples of what might be included in the report card. Bill alerts were sent to all legislators on all tracked legislation that reached a floor vote. After the session Strong Families New Mexico with the help of Legislative Working Group members decided which bills to feature in the 2015 report card. House, Senate, and individual legislator grades are based on bills that reached a floor vote.

Strong Families Policy Criteria

- Does the legislation recognize and support families of all formations?
- Does the legislation help to promote or achieve equitable outcomes for all families?
- Will the legislation expand government programs and services that support family wellbeing and the wellbeing of individuals within families?
- Does the legislation remove barriers that harm families in accessing government programs and services?
- Will the legislation protect families and the individuals that comprise them against discrimination, profiling, and harassment?

Nuestro Criterio en Política Familiar (Strong Families New Mexico)

- ¿Reconoce y apoya esta iniciativa a toda la diversidad de familias existentes?
- ¿Ayuda esta iniciativa a promover y lograr resultados equitativos para todas las familias?
- ¿Ampliará esta iniciativa los programas y servicios del gobierno para apoyar el bienestar de la familia y de todos sus miembros?
- ¿Eliminaría esta iniciativa las barreras que perjudican a las familias para acceder a los programas y servicios del gobierno?
- ¿Protege esta iniciativa a las familias de la discriminación y del acoso?



2015 HOUSE AND SENATE GRADES

HOUSE GRADE

6 laws that support strong families passed
 3 anti-family laws passed
 6 out of 9 points
 67% = **D**

SENATE GRADE

7 laws that support strong families passed
 2 laws harming families were defeated
 9 out of 9 points
 100% = **A+**

families. Legislators received one point for a vote in favor of legislation that helps families. Legislators also received one point if they voted “no” on harmful anti-family bills. Non-excused absences were also factored into the grade. The points were then added up and divided by their total number of votes to receive their percentage score.

STRONG FAMILIES LEGISLATION

“Yes” vote = 1 point
 “No” vote = 0 points

ANTI-FAMILY LEGISLATION

“No” vote = 1 point
 “Yes” vote = 0 points

LEGISLATOR GRADING

Individual legislators are graded based on how they voted on legislation that would strengthen

Excused Absence = no effect on grade
Non-excused Absence = minus .25 of a point

Representative Gloria - Sample Grading (Not an actual legislator)

VOTING RECORD
Strong families legislation: 4 “yes” votes out of 4 votes total
Anti-family legislation: 3 “no” votes out of 4 votes total
7 strong families votes out of 8 votes total = 88%
ATTENDANCE
1 excused absence = no effect on grade
1 non-excused absence = minus .25 of a point
7 strong families votes out of 8 votes total (88%) - .25 of a point = 6.75/8 = 84%
TOTAL SCORE/GRADE = 84% (B)

Civil Rights and Criminal Justice

A Strong Families approach to civil rights looks at the basic human rights that all families need in order to thrive. All families matter for strong, healthy communities. At the same time, some families face more struggles than others as a result of prejudice, misguided policies, and practices that punish rather than protect. In 2015 we saw legislation proposed and enacted that protected people's lives, safety, and property. We also saw a number of pieces of legislation that attempted to increase penalties and punish people rather than prevent the root causes of issues facing our state. We support legislation

that keeps families together, out of incarceration, and on a path to thrive outside of prisons.

Basic human rights ensure that families thrive. All families should have equitable access to nutritious food, clean water, safe and healthy environments, employment, and education. Ensuring access to these basic human needs also requires expanding the ability of family members to obtain driver's licenses, access 21st-century communication tools and language services, and participate in decision making through voting.

Legislation that Passed in 2015

HB 560 Revising Forfeiture Act Procedures: Makes it unlawful to "police for profit"

Sponsored by Rep. Zachary J. Cook (R-56)

✓ Passed House and Senate

✓ Signed into law by Gov. Susana Martinez

The 2002 Forfeiture Act in New Mexico attempted to prevent law enforcement agencies from incorporating seized assets into their budgets and required them to deposit the assets into a general state fund. Yet local and state police were able to work around the law, profiting from seized assets and taking the property of community members who were not convicted, or even charged, of a crime. Between 2001 and 2004, there were 891 seizures in New Mexico that totaled \$38.4 million.⁶

Before HB 560 passed, New Mexico incentivized the seizure of property to benefit law enforcement agencies at the expense of low-income individuals and families. Before HB 560, New Mexico was one of 26 states where law enforcement was allowed to keep 100% of the money taken in asset forfeiture.⁷ Property seizures

account for over 20% of the operating budget for more than 500 police departments and task forces around the U.S.⁸ HB 560 revises the Forfeiture Act, making property seizure permissible only if a person is guilty of a crime. Under this new bill, property, such as a house or vehicle, can only be seized if a person was convicted of a crime and if the property was part of the crime. The bill also requires the sale of seized property or seized currency to go into New Mexico's general fund rather than law enforcement profiting from the seized property.

SB 643 Omnibus Election Code Revision: Updating voter registration laws

Sponsored by Sen. Lisa Torracco (R-18)

✓ Passed House and Senate

✓ Signed into law by Gov. Susana Martinez

SB 643 combines four other House and Senate bills on the voter registration process, and for the first time includes the option of online voter registration. At the end of 2014, online voter registration was available in 20 states, reaching

110 million eligible voters.⁹ Agencies with online registration have boosted registration more than seven-fold, and Election Day registration has increased turnout up to seven percent.¹⁰

While many people in New Mexico still lack the technology and Internet access that makes online voter registration possible, others will now be able to register online. Paperless registration will open up the civic engagement process to numerous people who are unregistered while paper registration will still be available

for those who need it. Online voter registration will not only increase the number of people registered, but the number who turn out to vote, especially people who are historically less likely to vote. For example, compared to older adults, younger adults are less likely to be registered and to therefore vote. In 2014, at least 48% of younger adults ages 18 to 29 in New Mexico were not registered to vote and only 16% voted.¹¹ Access to voting is integral to all families and communities being able to support the policies that impact their everyday lives.

VOTING AND REGISTRATION BY AGE IN NEW MEXICO, 2014¹²

AGE	Voted	Registered, Didn't Vote	Not Registered	No Response
18-29	16%	21%	48%	15%
30-39	29%	26%	31%	14%
40-49	49%	27%	17%	6%
50-59	52%	18%	21%	10%
60-69	71%	8%	12%	9%
70+	64%	17%	9%	10%



SM 59 Limited English Proficient Access to State Programs: Ensures language access in state services

Sponsored by Sen. Mimi Stewart (D-17)

✓ Passed by Senate

This memorial urges the New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez to issue an executive order to state offices and programs that calls for state services to be accessible to people who have limited English proficiency. The memorial also calls for removing discriminatory barriers and creating equity when it comes to accessing healthcare, law enforcement support, and social services.

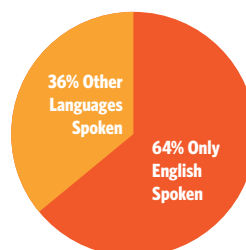
36% of New Mexico families speak a language other than English at home, compared to 21% across the whole U.S.¹³ New Mexican families needing services in languages other than English have difficulty or may find it impossible to receive assistance at a health clinic, communicate with law enforcement, or participate in the public school open house for their child. While some services and materials are available in Spanish, people who read and/or speak Navajo, Chinese, Vietnamese, and other languages are often further marginalized by not being able to access important state services. An executive order to make language access equitable for all would make New Mexico a leader in the country and a better place for all families to live and work.

What's a memorial?

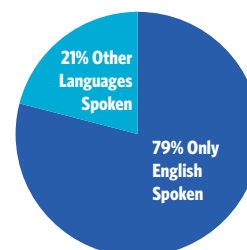
A memorial is formal document that expresses the wish or intent of a legislative body. A memorial is usually addressed to another governmental body and conveys the action the legislature hopes will be taken. Memorials are usually a petition or declaration, and while not binding, they are an important expression of support and leadership by state-level leaders. Simple memorials are passed by one chamber, while joint memorials are acted on by both chambers.

FAMILIES WHO SPEAK ONLY ENGLISH AT HOME

IN NEW MEXICO:



IN THE U.S.

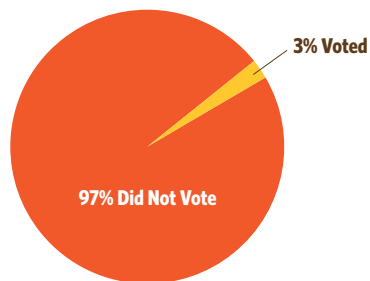


Language Access in the Courts

During the 2015 session a language access bill passed both the House and Senate, but was pocket vetoed by Governor Susana Martinez. HB 89, sponsored by Rep. Yvette Herrell (R-51), would have created a new fund to provide language access in the courts. The funds would have been used to pay court interpreters to assist people serving on juries and other support for language access in the courts. The New Mexico state constitution already upholds the right of Spanish speakers to serve on juries.¹⁴ This new fund would have gone a step further and provided more support for language access in the courts. Legislation that expands language access in the courts also removes barriers in our judicial system and makes steps to eliminate discrimination against all families.

Missed Opportunities in Civil Rights and Criminal Justice

2015 VOTER TURNOUT FOR APS/CNM
SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION



HB 249 Youth Civic Engagement and Voting Act: Allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in school elections

Sponsored by Rep. Javier I. Martinez (D-11)

✗ Died in House Judiciary Committee

HB 249 would have updated a new section of the Election Code allowing people 16 and 17 years of age to register to vote in the next school election. According to the bill, those registering could also be 15 years old at the time of registration, as long as they would be 16 by Election Day.

School board elections have a historically low voter turnout in New Mexico. In the most recent Albuquerque Public Schools/Central New Mexico Community College school board election, only 7,683 of registered voters (less than 3%) participated.¹⁵

Extending the vote to 16- and 17-year-olds can increase voter turnout in our state. In one town in Maryland, 16- and 17-year-olds were allowed to vote in municipal elections and had twice the turnout rate compared to voters age 18 and older.¹⁶

In New Mexico, 16-year-olds work, pay taxes, and drive as well as being in school full time. As community and family members, they are vital to the wellbeing of our communities and economy. Young people are greatly affected by the policy decisions of elected leaders, and therefore, should have the right to representation. The creation of such a bill affirms that some elected officials understand that the rights and responsibilities of civic life for young people in New Mexico should include participation in electoral processes.



**SB 136 Sexual Assault Prevention and Services:
Funding for sexual assault prevention**

Sponsored by Sen. Linda M. Lopez (D-11)

✕ Died in Senate Finance Committee

SB 136 would have made a \$1 million dollar appropriation to the Department of Health to fund sexual assault prevention services and trainings in fiscal year 2016. A 2014 survey found that 27% of rape crises centers across the country had to decrease public awareness and prevention education efforts due to loss of funding.¹⁷

New Mexico has higher rates of sexual assault compared to the U.S. as a whole, where 1 in 4 women and 1 in 20 men are raped or experience attempted rape in our state.¹⁸ In 2013, children under 13 years old comprised 31% of the sexual assault victims assisted by service providers in New Mexico.¹⁹ These are heartbreaking statistics that prove that more resources need to be committed to prevent sexual assault. Prevention work that protects the lives of community members should also address those most at risk of sexual assault including young people, people with disabilities, LGBTQ communities, incarcerated individuals, undocumented immigrants, and people who are homeless.²⁰ Funding for prevention can include things such as guidance

to colleges on how to be proactive in preventing sexual assault; workplace training, including training in the military; comprehensive school curriculum; and culture shift work that involves everyone in ending the cycle of violence.

People who survive sexual assault suffer from a wide range of mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder.²¹ One study revealed that over half of survivors who were raped while under the influence of alcohol or drugs developed lifetime PTSD.²² The complex challenges of violence faced by today's families are bigger than any one effort can solve. Families need support in responding to violence, and at the same time we need resources to solve the root problems that cause violence.

Economic Justice

New Mexico is a state with a history of struggling and surviving with few resources. Out of this situation comes strength and resilience, but also hardship. More than half of working families in New Mexico are poor—with an annual income of less than \$19,790 for a family of three.²³ Another quarter of working families are low income—with an income of less than \$39,580 for a family of three.²⁴

New Mexico ranks 49th in child poverty with 31% of children in poverty in our state.²⁵ In some counties the poverty rates among children are much higher. In McKinley County, for example, 41% of children live in poverty.²⁶ Expenses such as housing, food, and medicine are a big burden on many families. Housing is considered a major cost burden when families spend more

than 30% of their income on housing costs.²⁷ In Doña Ana County, 52% of families are renting with housing being a major cost burden.²⁸

Communities in New Mexico deserve more than economic struggle. We need economic policies that address the complex economic reality of families today. Policies that support a living wage, provide opportunities for adult education, protect benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), place regulations on high-interest loans, and reduce the cost of health insurance and college tuition are the kinds of proactive policies that will help all families thrive and be a part of the economic development in our state.



Legislation that Passed in 2015

HM 2 Paid Parental Leave Working Group: Establishing feasibility of paid parental leave

Sponsored by Rep. Gail Chasey (D-18)

✓ **Passed House**

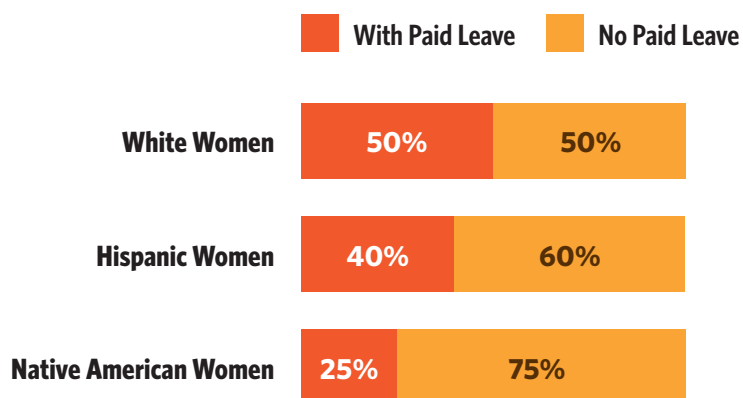
House Memorial 2 requests that University of New Mexico's Bureau of Business and Economic Research convene a parental paid leave working group to develop recommendations for a parental paid leave program and a publicly managed parenting workers' leave fund. The working group, which includes business groups, state agencies, and non-profits with expertise on family leave policy, is to complete its final report by October 1, 2016.

Only 13% of Americans have access to paid family leave through their employer.²⁹ Yet we know that paid family leave after the birth of a child combats poverty, gives children a healthy

start, lowers infant mortality by more than 20%,³⁰ and helps lower the wage gap between women and men.³¹

Even more alarming, access to paid maternity leave in New Mexico is deeply affected by race and income. Only 25% of Native American women who were employed during pregnancy had access to paid leave versus 40% of Hispanic women and 50% of White women. Nationally, our policies around parental leave have a gaping hole for low-income families, with more than half of the working poor left with no paid leave.³²

MATERNITY LEAVE FOR WOMEN IN NEW MEXICO





Paid Sick Leave and Parental Paid Leave

Paid sick leave can be used by employees with little or no advance notice and they can use it to recuperate from illness, seek medical care, or care for family members. It is usually taken in shorter periods of time, like a day or two days. Today, 49% of workers in New Mexico's private sector do not earn a single paid sick day.³³

Family and medical leave, parental leave, and disability leave can be taken for a longer period of time.

Job-protected parental leave is crucial for the health and economic security of babies, pregnant women and new mothers, and their families. The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993 entitles eligible employees

of any gender up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave around the time of the birth or adoption of a child, as long as they work in companies with at least 50 employees, and meet minimum job tenure and working hour requirements.

New Mexico workers need public policies that allow them to better manage the dual demands of work and family. Family-friendly workplace laws help workers maintain their economic security when they give birth, adopt, raise children or grandchildren, deal with illness, and care for parents, grandparents, spouses, or partners.

Missed Opportunities in Economic Justice

SB 34 Broadband Infrastructure Fund:

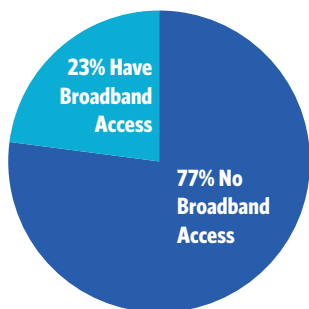
Expanding broadband infrastructure

Sponsored by Sen. Michael Padilla (D-14)

✗ **Died in Senate Finance Committee**

SB 34 would have appropriated \$10 million for investment in broadband infrastructure in rural parts of the state. In New Mexico, 77% of rural families lack access to adequate broadband compared to 17% in urban areas.³⁴ An even greater disparity exists among people living on tribal lands across the country. 85% of Americans living in rural areas of tribal lands lack access to an acceptable broadband speed.³⁵

BROADBAND ACCESS IN RURAL NEW MEXICO



Much like electricity or phones, the Internet has become a critical utility rather than a luxury. Lack of access to broadband means lack of access to news, health information, online educational opportunities, job searches, and government services. As the local and state government in New Mexico provides more information and engagement online—from enrolling in healthcare to online voter registration—access to the Internet will have critical impacts on families engaging with basic government services. Broadband gives rural communities access to telehealth so that healthcare needs can be met without having to travel long distances to hospitals when it is not necessary. New Mexico should invest in broadband infrastructure throughout our large state in order to increase the economic strength of families and businesses.

HB 24 36% Annual Cap on Legal Lending Rates: Capping the interest rate on payday loans

Sponsored by Rep. Patricia A. Roybal-Caballero (D-13)

✗ **Died in House Regulatory and Public Affairs Committee**

A payday loan is a loan for a small amount, usually \$500 or less, that is typically due on one's next payday. Interest rates can exceed 300% and there is no limit to the number of loans one can take out in a year. HB 24 would have created a long sought after interest rate cap on payday loans with a maximum rate of 36%.

While payday loans can help families cover their everyday expenses, too many families get caught in a cycle of debt. Across the U.S., over 80% of loans are renewed within 14 days.³⁶ In New Mexico, a person can take out a loan on the same day a prior loan is paid off.³⁷ There is no "cooling off" period. Of those who borrow monthly, they are more likely to stay in debt for 11 months or longer.³⁸

New Mexico state lending data shows that towns bordering Native American reservations issue hundreds of thousands of small-dollar loans each year, often with high interest rates that can snare borrowers in a cycle of debt. A national study found that New Mexico's Native American communities are more saddled with predatory loans than any other community in the U.S. In the city of Gallup, storefront lenders issued more than 52,000 loans worth \$27.5 million with interest rates of at least 175%.³⁹ Payday borrowers are more likely to experience bankruptcy, delinquencies on other bills, and delayed medical care.⁴⁰ In New Mexico, no family should have to struggle to pay for housing, food, and healthcare, let alone loans to cover their basic needs. We need a lending system and regulations that further protect families from the burden of high interest loans.

NEW MEXICO PAYDAY LENDING STATISTICS ⁴¹

Number of Stores	Average # of Loans per Store	Payday Loan Dollar Volume	Total Payday Fees	Average Loan Amount
121	686	\$31.2 million	\$4.7 million	\$375





Education Equity

People need educational opportunities that are affordable throughout their lifetime. This includes everything from preschool education to opportunities for adult education in safe and supportive environments. Early childhood education affects education and economic well-being throughout a person's lifetime. Economic wellbeing impacts the health of individuals and their families. All issues are interrelated and education policies should be viewed across this spectrum and in the context of how families are faring in New Mexico.

When compared with other states, New Mexico ranks 49th in education.⁴² This ranking takes into account the number of children attending preschool, fourth-grade reading proficiency, eighth-grade math proficiency, and graduation rates. In New Mexico, only 70% of students graduate high school.⁴³ The graduation rate drops to 65% for students who are English-language learners and/or low income.⁴⁴ Of adults 25 years and older, 17% have no high school diploma.⁴⁵ New Mexico needs education policies that expand opportunities for all ages and that provide high-quality and culturally competent lessons for all learners.

Advocating for Students and Families

In New Mexico there is a great disparity in the graduation rates and other academic outcomes between White students and students of color. 77% of White students graduate in New Mexico compared to 69% of Black students, 68% of Hispanic students, and 64% of Native American students.⁴⁶ For years, youth and family advocates have been working within Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) and in the community to address this disparity, as well as other issues such as handling conflicts between groups of students across racial groups, working with families who reported being disrespected by school staff, and working with students of color who are not seeing their histories or identities reflected in their classes.

In 2008, a group organizing on school issues such as these named themselves Advocates for Equity. They wrote vision and mission statements, and in January 2009 organized the *Anti-Racism in Education Candidate Forum* for the APS Board, which was attended by over 100 people. Soon after that, the Hispano/Latino Academic Achievement Committee of the Latino/Hispano Education Task Force called out the need for a new family engagement policy with APS leadership. It was around this time that Advocates for Equity began to morph into Families United for Education (FUE), a collective of 400 families and 45 supporting organizations.

Over the next few years, FUE researched, wrote, and advocated for a family engagement policy. That policy passed the APS Board in 2012. Their family engagement policy called on APS to utilize the histories and cultures of our families and communities as a foundation for education. The policy centered on four foundational building blocks that included:

1. Fostering safe and welcoming environments.
2. Strengthening relationships and capacity with families, teachers, school and district administrators, and community partners.

3. Expanding communication between families, community partners, and schools.
4. Cultivating equitable and effective systems.

During the 2015 legislative session, members of Families United for Education supported a number of pieces of legislation that close gaps in the academic achievement of students and amplify youth voices in the civic engagement process. FUE members supported SB 526, the Family and Community Engagement Act, which sought to ensure proper design and implementation of family and community engagement programs in each school district. SB 526 passed the Senate and then died in the House Education Committee. FUE also supported SJM 15, which called for state agencies to adopt policies against institutional racism. SJM 15 passed the Senate. FUE supported HB 249, a bill that died in committee that would have allowed 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in school board elections. Each year Families United for Education participates in an Anti-Racism Day at the Roundhouse.

In Albuquerque, the tide continues to turn as APS has announced the creation of a new Office of Equity and Engagement. Families United for Education organizes school board candidate town halls and anti-racism trainings for school board members, community members, and other decision makers. One of the founders of FUE, Tony Watkins, stated "From the beginning we committed to continuing our work until the experiences of our children become visible in their classrooms and schools because we know that without action, literally thousands of our students experience marginalization every day." Families United for Education continues to work with APS leadership and community members to eliminate discrimination and alienation of all students while building a safe and equitable school environment.

Legislation that Passed in 2015

SB 381 Carlos Vigil Memorial Act: Bullying prevention

Sponsored by Sen. Jacob Candelaria (D-26)

✓ Passed House and Senate

✓ Signed into law by Gov. Susana Martinez

Carlos Vigil was a 17-year-old who took his own life after years of trying to cope with bullying. Carlos lived in New Mexico and was a young gay man who helped other youth fight back against bullying.⁴⁷ SB 381 honors Carlos and calls for a state fund for bullying prevention. The Carlos Vigil Memorial Board will award grants to New Mexico programs whose aim is to eradicate bullying.

91% of LGBTQ youth in middle and high schools in the U.S. reported hearing homophobic remarks in school.⁴⁸ 18% of students in New Mexico have reported being bullied on school property.⁴⁹ The rates of reported bullying are much higher for middle school students. 46% of all middle school students in New Mexico stated they were bullied on school property.⁵⁰ The results vary by county. For example in Doña Ana County, 39% of middle school students stated they were bullied on school property⁵¹ compared to 48% percent of middle school students in Rio Arriba County.⁵²

Bullying cannot come to an end unless there is a shift in culture, one in which bullying is not accepted. Like many LGBTQ youth in New Mexico, Carlos lived in a school environment and world where he was not valued by others. Feeling accepted, loved, and safe is critical to individuals and families being able to thrive. This bill allows for more programs and services in New Mexico that can help bring forth this shift from bullying to respect.

While the passing of this bill was a step forward for New Mexico, the Safe Schools for All Students Act (SB 393), died in committee. This bill would have gone further by requiring that bullying prevention policies and programs are enacted in each school district across the state.

SB 361: Opportunity for High School Equivalency Credentials Expanded for People Incarcerated: Eliminates high school equivalency restrictions for those incarcerated

Sponsored by Sen. Lisa Torracco (R-18)

✓ Passed Senate

New Mexico already has a mandatory education program for people who are incarcerated. SB 361 amends an existing law in order to expand who can be part of this opportunity to earn a high school equivalency credential or high school diploma while incarcerated. One point of expansion is that SB 361 allowed for people who have a sentence of 18 months or less to be part of the program.

Over 15,000 people are incarcerated in New Mexico.⁵³ Studies have shown that adult basic education, high school diploma/GED, postsecondary education, and vocational training all showed reductions in recidivism.⁵⁴ People who participate in correctional education programs are 43% less likely to return to prison compared to those who did not participate in an educational program.⁵⁵

Academic programs can lead to stable employment which helps to keep people out of the prison system. Employment after release was 13% higher among prisoners who participated in either academic or vocational education programs than those who did not.⁵⁶ Education in prisons gives those incarcerated a better chance at finding work, a better chance at making a living wage, and a better chance at staying out of prison so they can be there for their families and contribute to the community.

Missed Opportunities in Education Equity

SJR 5 Permanent School Fund Distribution for Early Childhood Education: Increasing funds for early childhood education

Sponsored by Sen. Michael Padilla (D-14)

✖ Died in Senate Finance Committee

This legislation would have increased sustainable state funding for early childhood education, education that occurs before children attend kindergarten. SJR 5 would have amended the state constitution to make permanent the additional 0.5% distribution for early childhood education from the Permanent Land Grant Fund (PLGF), a fund established by the federal government in 1912 as New Mexico was entering statehood to help pay for public education. Each year a percent of the revenue from the PLGF is used to support a broad range of education programs. This increase would have totaled a 5.5% distribution from the PLGF in fiscal years 2015 and

2016. The resolution went further to propose a 7% total distribution in fiscal year 2017 and beyond. Had SJR 5 passed, New Mexico voters would have been able to vote on this amendment in the 2016 general election.

From 2010 to 2012, 62% or 36,000 children ages three to four in New Mexico were not attending preschool.⁵⁷ Early childhood programs have been shown to decrease the rates of child abuse/neglect and health problems, while improving school performance and reading skills, and increasing high school graduation and college entry rates.⁵⁸ Early childhood education is a key factor in increasing both the economic wellbeing of families and the health and education of children in New Mexico so that they can succeed now and in the future.



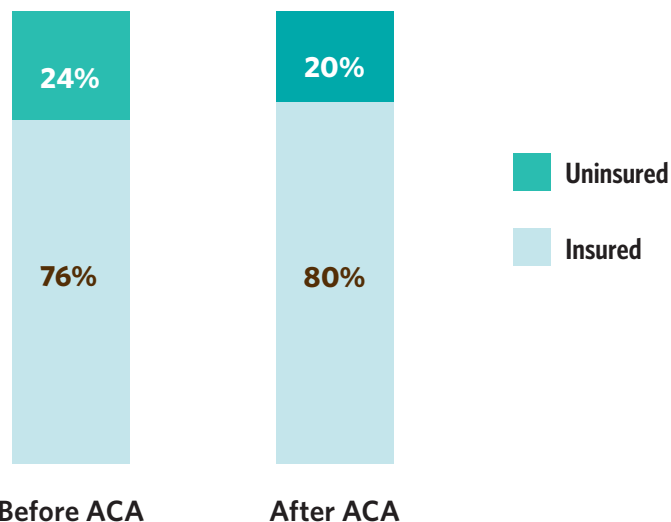
Health Equity

Many families in New Mexico are strongly knit and care for one another in times of need. From picking up medication for family members, to staying at a family member's bedside, to incorporating traditional herbal remedies, New Mexicans support and advocate for the health of all people in a variety of ways. While families and communities do what they can to support one another, New Mexico needs policies that will uplift the health of all people in all situations.

Before the Affordable Care Act (ACA), 24% of people in New Mexico were uninsured.⁵⁹ The estimate after the ACA shows that nearly

20% are still uninsured, placing New Mexico at 40th in the nation for the number uninsured.⁶⁰ Those who are insured often have to travel long distances to receive healthcare and may have difficulty finding a healthcare provider. In fact, over 40% of New Mexicans live in a primary care health professional shortage area.⁶¹ After getting medical care, many families have difficulty paying the medical expenses not covered by insurance; 52% of Americans' debt is due to unpaid medical expenses.⁶²

NEW MEXICAN'S HEALTH INSURANCE BEFORE AND AFTER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA)



Legislation that Passed in 2015

SB 42 Medicaid For Certain Incarcerated

Persons: Medicaid for incarcerated individuals

Sponsored by Sen. Gerald P. Ortiz y Pino (D-12) and Rep. Alonzo Baldonado (R-8)

✓ Passed House and Senate

✓ Signed into law by Gov. Susana Martinez

SB 42 makes it so that incarceration is no longer a factor in denying or terminating one's Medicaid enrollment. The bill requires the Human Services Department to continue Medicaid coverage for individuals who become incarcerated while enrolled in Medicaid. This bill also allows people who are currently incarcerated in county jails and state prison to become eligible for Medicaid. This bill has the potential to expand healthcare coverage for thousands of men and women. In 2015, there were 6,558 men in prison and 782 women in prison in New Mexico.⁶³

When people re-enter the community after incarceration, Medicaid coverage ensures they are able to immediately get healthcare services without any delay—including mental health treatment and treatment for substance use. States that increase medical and mental health services for people formerly incarcerated have been able to reduce the number of people who return to prison.⁶⁴ Mental health services are especially important for people who become incarcerated because they are more likely to have a mental illness.⁶⁵ When Medicaid is expanded states no longer pay for the healthcare bill of prisoners who receive treatment outside of the prison.⁶⁶ Instead, the federal government pays for this treatment.

Those in the criminal justice system are facing many issues when they are released such as finding housing, finding employment, and reconnecting with family and friends. SB 42 allows people re-entering the community to have access to vital healthcare services. Receiving immediate mental healthcare services, access to support with substance abuse, and other medical assistance better ensures that individuals have the resources they need to thrive when facing a number of obstacles to re-entry.

HB 108 Investment Zones for Behavioral Health

Services: Increase in mental health services

Sponsored by Rep. Patricia Lundstrom (D-9)

✓ Passed House and Senate

✗ Vetoed by Gov. Susana Martinez

HB 108 amends The Department of Health Act to create behavioral health service zones across the state. Investment zones allow for strategic and equitable distribution of services based on what is happening in a community, such as deaths related to alcohol use, drug overdose, and suicide. "Zones" identified as higher risk would receive more behavioral health support resources in order to heal individuals in these communities.

In New Mexico, 14% of young people ages 12 to 20 have binged on alcohol in the previous month⁶⁷ and 12% of young people ages 12 to 17 have used illicit drugs in the previous month, which is 3% higher than the national average of drug use among youth.⁶⁸ Our state's suicide rate is one of the highest in the country at 1.5 to 1.9 times the national suicide rate.⁶⁹

While there are behavioral health needs state-wide, certain counties, especially rural counties with high poverty rates, are more in need of drug and suicide prevention services. In 2012, six rural counties (Taos, Grant, Rio Arriba, Torrance, Sierra, and Otero) had suicide rates over twice the national rate.⁷⁰ Alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 people are highest in McKinley, Rio Arriba, and Quay Counties.⁷¹ Mental health services also connect to behavioral health and are in great need statewide. 57% of adults surveyed who had any type of mental illness reported that they received no mental health treatment or counseling in the year prior.⁷² By looking at behavioral health and mental health issues in New Mexico overall while also looking at which areas of the state are most in need, New Mexico service providers and others can better assist individuals and families who are in serious and sometimes life-or-death situations.

Missed Opportunities in Health Equity

SB 44 School-Based Health Centers: Increasing access to healthcare for students

Sponsored by Sen. Gerald P. Ortiz y Pino (D-12)

✘ Died in Senate Education Committee

SB 44 appropriates five years' worth of resources from the general fund for the Office of School and Adolescent Health to expand access to behavioral health treatment and services through school-based health centers, to expand hours of operation for existing centers, and to establish 22 new school-based health centers by 2020.

New Mexico has more than 70 school-based health centers (SBHCs)⁷³ bringing healthcare to where students are—in the school. During the 2013-14 school year, there were more than 43,000 visits at SBHCs sponsored by the Office of School and Adolescent Health.⁷⁴ School-based health centers are frontline healthcare responders for students, providing counseling and referrals about depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health issues. While SBHCs provide a range of behavioral health services, nearly 63% of visits are for primary care—including well child visits, sports physicals, flu vaccinations, and family planning.⁷⁵ Health centers also help keep students in the classroom; New Mexico youth report making it to six more classes when accessing healthcare at an SBHC versus an outside location.⁷⁶

HB 494 Uranium Contamination Health Study: Health evaluation of communities near uranium mines

Sponsored by Rep. Georgene Louis (D-26)

✘ Died in House Health Committee

HB 494 required the New Mexico Department of Health to conduct a comprehensive health study of residents affected by exposure to uranium mining. The bill also called for financial penalties of uranium mine owners, operators, and others involved in the mining process who would be liable for the cost of the community health study. This House bill had a duplicate bill in the Senate, SB 610, which also died in committee.

Uranium is a radioactive metal that is used to fuel nuclear power plants and has a variety of military uses such as shielding army tanks. From 1944 to 1986 almost four million tons of uranium ore were extracted from Navajo lands, located in the Northwest part of New Mexico, leaving over 500 abandoned mines today.⁷⁷ Many Navajo families worked on and lived near the mines. In 1979 the Church Rock Tailings Uranium Spill was the second largest accidental release of radioactive materials in U.S. history.⁷⁸ It happened in McKinley County where residents have higher rates of stomach, kidney, renal, and pelvis cancer than the overall populations in both the state and in the U.S.⁷⁹ Health effects due to non-occupational exposure to uranium, through inhalation of radioactive particles or drinking water for example, can include lung cancer and impaired kidney function.⁸⁰

Each time a health report is issued, it is stated that further study is needed on the health and environmental impacts of uranium mining and the associated superfund sites. A three-year health study done by New Mexico's Department of Health is needed to address the real health concerns of families living in the northwestern part of our state.

Native American Voices in New Mexico

Native Americans make up 10% of New Mexico's population.⁸¹ There are 22 tribes in our state comprised of 19 pueblos, two Apache tribes, and the Navajo Nation.⁸² Native American people living in New Mexico hold great wisdom and knowledge when it comes to their land, water, and food. They work hard to preserve their languages and other aspects of their cultures. While rich in wisdom and culture, Native Americans continue to be one of the most underresourced and marginalized populations in our state.

Native Americans as a whole suffer from high levels of poverty with 32% of Native American families in New Mexico facing poverty.⁸³ Native Americans also lack access to quality education institutions that are culturally appropriate. Only 64% of Native American students graduate in New Mexico⁸⁴ and students who attend Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools only have a national graduation rate of 53%.⁸⁵ Native families also face higher rates of violence, youth suicide, mass incarceration, contaminated land and water, poor access to quality healthcare, and obstacles that make it difficult to vote such as language access and distance to polling locations.

Organizations such as the Native American Voters Alliance (NAVA) are working to address some of the key issues and challenges faced by Native people living in our state. NAVA works to organize Native American people to take action on issues that will improve the quality of life for Native communities and to protect the continuity of Native American cultures. NAVA is committed to social, economic, and environmental justice principles that advance healthy and sustainable communities for Native American families living in New Mexico.

Laurie Weahkee, Executive Director of NAVA, said the 2015 legislative session saw many bills that would have impacted Native families. "We supported three bills that called for health studies on the impact of uranium mining on our lands," said Laurie. However, NAVA was also concerned about a harmful voter identification bill that would have made it more difficult for tribal communities to vote. "We see our job at NAVA to build an active and informed Native community through civic engagement work and advocating for issues that impact Native families, so we can ensure that all levels of decision makers are hearing our voices," says Laurie.



Anti-Family Legislation

The Strong Families New Mexico Report Card highlights proactive legislation that seeks to improve the lives of families in New Mexico. While we tracked more than 100 proactive pieces of legislation, we also tracked 40 pieces of anti-family legislation in the 2015 session.

Anti-family legislation is legislation that does not support or recognize families of all formations. Anti-family legislation creates inequity between families and can even go as far as to block government services causing harm to families in our state. Anti-family legislation can also cause or amplify discrimination, profiling, and harassment against families.

Some of the anti-family bills in the 2015 session were defeated. Bills that harm families included increased penalties that keep family members



incarcerated for longer periods of time and right-to-work legislation, a deceptively named idea that takes away collective bargaining rights and weakens unions who negotiate higher wages and benefits for workers. Other anti-family legislation went as far as to pass in the House of Representatives. The House passed a bill that attempted to repeal driver's licenses from undocumented families, another bill that spelled out stricter voter identification measures that make it harder to vote, and two bills to restrict abortion access.

Anti-Family Legislation that Passed in 2015

HB 32 Two-Tiered Driver's Licenses: Repealing driver's licenses for undocumented families

Sponsored by Rep. Paul A. Pacheco (R-23)

✓ Passed House

New Mexico's current driver's license law from 2003 allows all people without proof of immigration status to obtain a driver's license. Since 2003, eleven states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws that provide access to driver's licenses or cards regardless of immigration status.⁸⁶ Over 100,000 children born in NM have at least one immigrant parent.⁸⁷ Having a valid license allows parents to take their children to school, to pick up medication, and to travel to work.

After years of threats to take away legal licenses from undocumented immigrants living and

working in New Mexico, one bill to repeal driver's licenses went on to pass the House. HB 32 called for a restricted temporary driver's license that would last only one year for some immigrants. This bill also increased penalties for families and required a social security number for a certain type of driver's license. This bill would have created a discriminatory license for undocumented immigrants.

Allowing immigrants to receive a valid driver's license increases public safety in our communities as people are more likely to stay on the scene of a crime and comply with other laws while carrying legal and nondiscriminatory identification.⁸⁸ Licenses for all keep New Mexico families connected and employed while also keeping communities safer.

HB 390 Restricts Access to Abortion: Prohibiting abortion after 20 weeks

Sponsored by Rep. Yvette Herrell (R-51)

✓ Passed House

✗ Defeated in Senate

HB 390 came to New Mexico after a failed ballot measure in Albuquerque in 2013 that would have eliminated access to safe abortions after 20 weeks. New Mexico is one of seven states where lawmakers trust women to make decisions about terminating a pregnancy without additional barriers and interference.⁸⁹ Every pregnancy is different and making a decision to end a pregnancy is deeply personal and often complex. Every woman should be supported in making this decision in consultation with those she trusts.

This bill prohibited abortion after 20 weeks or more, unless the health or life of the mother was at risk, or the pregnancy was a result of sexual abuse, rape, or incest. In addition, the legislation expanded “religious refusals,” allowing any hospital employee to refuse medical treatment or medicine based on their personal views about abortion.

Women need access to safe and legal medical care throughout their lives and their pregnancies, and no single piece of legislation can take into account the realities of all women’s pregnancies. In New Mexico, we pride ourselves on our diversity of thought, religious beliefs, and culture. To continue this tradition, we must respect the circumstances and beliefs that inform a woman’s decisions regarding her pregnancy.

HB 391 Physician Reporting Requirements on Abortions: Require parental notification when a minor seeks abortion

Sponsored by Rep. Alonzo Baldonado (R-8)

✓ Passed House

✗ Defeated in Senate

HB 391 would have required parental notification be given to a parent or guardian of a person under age 18 seeking an abortion 48 hours before the procedure. The bill had minimal exceptions to the notification requirement.

No research has shown that mandatory parental involvement increases communication or strengthens the relationship between a parent and child.⁹⁰ Further, parental notification and judicial bypass has been shown to delay access to timely medical care and to result in abortions later in the pregnancy, which creates a greater risk to the woman.⁹¹ Like many attempted parental notification bills, HB 391 did not take into account the safety of the young women. Further, this bill did not allow for adults to believe and trust in those seeking safe abortion care to know what is best for them. Families build trust together and should have the freedom to do so without the interference from the state government. HB 390 tries to legislate trust and family relationships, something we know doesn’t work.

Stricter Voter ID Laws

Strong Families New Mexico tracked four pieces of anti-family legislation that called for stricter voter identification requirements in 2015. Across the country there continue to be more attempts to make it harder for people to vote. New Mexico is one of several states that make it easier for people to vote by not requiring unnecessary documentation. One study looked at all the reported cases of election fraud across the U.S. since 2000—a timeframe when 146 million Americans were registered to vote—and they found only 10 cases where there was impersonation of another voter at a voting place where a voter ID law could have prevented impersonation.⁹²

One piece of legislation, HB 340, attempted to require photo identification when voting in person. Bills like this can decrease voter turnout as they affect the majority of voters who vote

in person. In the February 2015 school board election in Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties, 461 voted by absentee ballot out of 7,683 total voters who participated in this election. Therefore, absentee votes only comprised 6% of the votes cast.⁹³ Additionally, HB 340 would have disproportionately affected voters who are rural and low income. Many people do not have a state or federally issued ID because they do not drive, travel by plane, or hold a job that requires this type of identification. Tribal elders in New Mexico, for example, often have only a tribal certificate and sometimes a tribal identification card. HB 340 did state that tribal identification could be shown at the polls as valid identification. However, not all tribes and pueblos in New Mexico offer or require tribal ID cards and some do not include photos. Leaving people out of the voting process hurts our democracy by putting up barriers that affect some families more than others.

Conclusion

We all care deeply for our state and along with policymakers we are working to ensure that the needs of our communities are met so that all families can thrive. This report card serves as a tool to guide leaders in our state in creating policies that support all families. By addressing the

needs of families most marginalized, by partnering with community groups, and by using Strong Families' Policy Criteria we can build power together for a better New Mexico.

Votes and Grades of Legislators

Votos y Calificaciones de los Legisladores

Legislation that reached a full vote in the House of Representatives.

Iniciativas de ley que llegaron a un voto pleno de la Cámara de Representantes.

✓ = A vote in support of strong families/Un voto a favor de las familias

✗ = An anti-family vote/Un voto anti-familias

E = An excused absence/Falta justificada

A = A non-excused absence/Falta no justificada

REPRESENTATIVE REPRESENTANTE	District Distrito	Civil Rights/ Criminal Justice Derechos Civiles/ Justicia Penal		Economic Justice Justicia Económica	Education Equity Equidad en Educación	Health Equity Equidad en Servicios de Salud		Anti-Family Anti-Familia			GRADE CALIFICACION
		HB 560	SB 643	HM 2	SB 381	SB 42	HB 108	HB 32	HB 390	HB 391	
David E. Adkins	R-29	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
Eliseo Lee Alcon	D-6	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Deborah A. Armstrong	D-17	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Alonzo Baldonado	R-8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
Paul C. Bandy	R-3	A	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Cathrynn N. Brown	R-55	✓	✓	E	E	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Gail Chasey	D-18	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	A+
Sharon Clahchischilliage	R-4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
Zachary J. Cook	R-56	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	E	✗	✗	✗	F
Randal S. Crowder	R-64	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
James Mitchell Dines	R-20	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
George Dodge, Jr.	D-63	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	A+
Brian F. Egolf, Jr.	D-47	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Nora Espinoza	R-59	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Candy Spence Ezzell	R-58	✓	A	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Kelly K. Fajardo	R-7	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
David M. Gallegos	R-61	✓	✓	A	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Doreen Y. Gallegos	D-52	✓	✓	✓	A	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Miguel P. Garcia	D-14	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+

REPRESENTATIVE REPRESENTANTE	District Distrito	Civil Rights/ Criminal Justice Derechos Civiles/ Justicia Penal		Economic Justice Justicia Económica	Education Equity Equidad en Educación	Health Equity Equidad en Servicios de Salud		Anti-Family Anti-Familia			GRADE CALIFICACION
		HB 560	SB 643	HM 2	SB 381	SB 42	HB 108	HB 32	HB 390	HB 391	
Stephanie Garcia Richard	D-43	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	B+
Nate Gentry	R-30	A	✓	✓	E	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	F
Bealquin Bill Gomez	D-34	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales	D-42	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Jimmie C. Hall	R-28	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Dianne Miller Hamilton	R-38	✓	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Jason C. Harper	R-57	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
Yvette Herrell	R-51	A	✓	✗	✓	✓	A	✗	✗	✗	F
Dona G. Irwin	D-32	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	C+
Conrad James	R-24	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
D. Wonda Johnson	D-5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Larry A. Larrañaga	R-27	✓	✓	E	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Tim D. Lewis	R-60	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
Rick Little	R-53	✓	✓	✗	A	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Georgene Louis	D-26	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Patricia A. Lundstrom	D-9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	B+
James Roger Madalena	D-65	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Antonio "Moe" Maestas	D-16	✓	✓	E	E	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	A+
Sarah Maestas Barnes	R-15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
Stephanie Maez	D-21	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	A
W. Ken Martinez	D-69	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	A+
Javier Martínez	D-11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Bill McCamley	D-33	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Terry H. McMillan	R-37	✓	✓	A	E	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Matthew McQueen	D-50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Rodney D. Montoya	R-1	✓	✓	E	A	A	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Andy Nunez	R-36	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D

REPRESENTATIVE REPRESENTANTE	District Distrito	Civil Rights/ Criminal Justice Derechos Civiles/ Justicia Penal		Economic Justice Justicia Económica	Education Equity Equidad en Educación	Health Equity Equidad en Servicios de Salud		Anti-Family Anti-Familia			GRADE CALIFICACION
		HB 560	SB 643	HM 2	SB 381	SB 42	HB 108	HB 32	HB 390	HB 391	
Paul A. Pacheco	R-23	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert	R-44	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
William "Bill" R. Rehm	R-31	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
Dennis J. Roch	D-67	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Debbie A. Rodella	D-41	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	B+
G. Andres Romero	D-10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Patricia Roybal Caballero	D-13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	A+
Patricio Ruiloba	D-12	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	C
Nick L. Salazar	D-40	✓	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E	E	A+
Tomás E. Salazar	D-70	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Larry R. Scott	R-62	E	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
James E. Smith	R-22	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
Sheryl Williams Stapleton	D-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Jeff Steinborn	D-35	E	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
James R.J. Strickler	R-2	E	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
James G. Townsend	R-54	E	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Don L. Tripp	R-49	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Carl Trujillo	D-46	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	C+
Christine Trujillo	D-25	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Jim R. Trujillo	D-45	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	B
Luciano "Lucky" Varela	D-48	✓	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	A+
Bob Wooley	R-66	✓	A	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	F
Monica Youngblood	R-68	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	D
John L. Zimmerman	R-39	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	F

Legislation that reached a full vote in the Senate. Iniciativas de ley que llegaron a un voto pleno del Senado.

✓ = A vote in support of strong families/Un voto a favor de las familias

✗ = An anti-family vote/Un voto anti-familias

E = An excused absence/Falta justificada

A = A non-excused absence/Falta no justificada

SENATOR SENADOR	District Distrito	Civil Rights/ Criminal Justice Derechos Civiles/ Justicia Penal			Education Equity Equidad en Educación		Health Equity Equidad en Servicios de Salud		Anti-Family Anti-Familia		GRADE CALIFICACION
		HB 560	SM 59	SB 643	SB 381	SB 361	SB 42	HB 108	HB 390	HB 391	
Sue Wilson Beffort	R-19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	D
Craig W. Brandt	R-40	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	C
William F. Burt	R-33	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	C+
Pete Campos	D-8	✓	✓	E	✓	A	A	✓	✗	✓	C
Jacob R. Candelaria	D-26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Joseph Cervantes	D-31	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Carlos R. Cisneros	D-7	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Lee S. Cotter	R-36	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	A	E	✗	✗	D
Phil A. Griego	D-39	A	A	A	A	✓	✓	A	A	✓	F
Ron Griggs	R-34	✓	E	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✗	✗	F
Stuart Ingle	R-27	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	C
Daniel A. Ivey-Soto	D-15	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Gay G. Kernan	R-42	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✗	✗	D
Carroll H. Leavell	R-41	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✗	B
Linda M. Lopez	D-11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Richard C. Martinez	D-5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Cisco McSorley	D-16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Mark Moores	R-21	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✗	✗	D
Howie C. Morales	D-28	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
George K. Munoz	D-4	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Steven P. Neville	R-2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	C+
Bill B. O'Neill	D-13	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+

SENATOR SENADOR	District Distrito	Civil Rights/ Criminal Justice/ Derechos Civiles/ Justicia Penal			Education Equity Equidad en Educación		Health Equity Equidad en Servicios de Salud		Anti-Family Anti-Familia		GRADE CALIFICACION
		HB 560	SM 59	SB 643	SB 381	SB 361	SB 42	HB 108	HB 390	HB 391	
Gerald Ortiz y Pino	D-12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Michael Padilla	D-14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Mary Kay Papen	D-38	✓	E	E	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
William H. Payne	R-20	E	✓	E	A	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	D
John Pinto	D-3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Cliff R. Pirtle	R-32	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	C+
Nancy Rodriguez	D-24	✓	✓	E	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Sander Rue	R-23	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	C+
John C. Ryan	R-10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	C+
Clemente Sanchez	D-30	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Michael S. Sanchez	D-29	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
John M. Sapien	D-9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
William E. Sharer	R-1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	C+
Benny Shendo, Jr.	D-22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A
John Arthur Smith	D-35	✓	E	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	A-
William P. Soules	D-37	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Mimi Stewart	D-17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Lisa A. Torracco	R-18	E	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	E	✗	C+
Peter Wirth	D-25	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A+
Pat Woods	R-7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	C+

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