Providers... Are You Fed Up?

...with these NM health system problems?

- Unacceptably complex and costly billing/collections processes
- Insurers using low-value PAs, bogus denials of payment, and more to raise their profits
- Insurance networks that limit our patients’ choices
- Multiple shifting formularies and skyrocketing drug prices
- Outdated income differences across specialties
- Patients confused by their plan’s rules, and angry or worried about their medical bills
- Inadequate mental health coverage
- Private practitioners pleading with insurance companies for occasional “raises”
- Lack of transparency and accountability re costs, on all sides
It doesn’t have to be this way in New Mexico!

The Health Security Plan (HSP) has been crafted over many years with extensive input from patients and providers. It’s a smarter way of financing health care and would allow providers to focus much more on patient care. The HSP would be a new primary health plan that would automatically cover a substantial majority of New Mexicans. Those not covered by it would keep their current federally backed coverage (e.g., IHS, TRICARE, and possibly Medicare). This mixed approach ensures that all New Mexicans have comprehensive and affordable health coverage.

The Health Security Plan would:

► Shift private insurance to a supplemental role (as with Medicare), eliminating networks
► Have comprehensive benefits that mirror what state employees now enjoy
► Be funded by sliding-scale premiums paid by patients and employers covered by the Plan—not by taxes
► Preserve the current system for providing care—maintaining providers’ independence
► Pay providers at rates above Medicare levels, and review the process used in valuing the work of providers
► Be run like a co-op, managed by a citizens’ commission—not a state government agency—with 1/3 of members being provider and hospital representatives
► Streamline billing, PAs, credentialing, etc.—helping private practices thrive again
► Require financial transparency across the board
► Create true parity for mental health coverage
► Reward providers working in underserved communities
► Use its clout to negotiate lower drug prices
► Substantially reduce auto and workers’ comp insurance premiums
Does the Health Security Plan really have a chance of happening?

Yes! Using $389,000 allocated by the 2019 NM Legislature, a detailed, independent fiscal analysis of the HSP has begun; the results will be reviewed by our legislators in the fall of 2020.

An independent study in 2007 showed the HSP would save about $880 million per year by year 5 (compared to the status quo). Similar cost reductions may be projected again soon. Instead of going to insurance company overhead and profits, those huge savings could be used to lower premiums, raise provider payments, improve facilities, and/or expand patients’ benefits.

Health care organizations that support the fiscal analysis/Health Security Plan

► NM Medical Society
► NM Academy of Family Physicians
► NM Psychiatric Medical Association
► NM Nurse Practitioners Council
► NM Nurses Association
► NM Pharmacists Association
► NM Society for Acupuncture and Asian Medicine
► NM Public Health Association
What is needed now from providers like YOU?

► Learn more! Study the Health Security Campaign’s website (below) and attend a training workshop for HSP advocates.
► Get fire in your belly! Commit to help make this happen over the next 2 years.
► Explain to colleagues how the HSP would be good for us and our patients.
► Talk to community groups, who often need speakers.
  
  Campaign staff will help you.
► Urge your state legislators (in person or in writing) to strongly support this Plan.
► Donate generously ($250+) to the Campaign.
► Urge leaders of provider organizations to which you belong to fight for this Plan.

Let’s take control of our destiny and not count on embattled D.C. politicians to solve our health system mess. We already have a carefully designed, brilliant, and affordable Plan for New Mexico, with thousands of supporters!

Provider-Supporters of the Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign

nmhealthsecurity.org

Coordinator: Tyler Taylor, MD
tylerinnm@aol.com