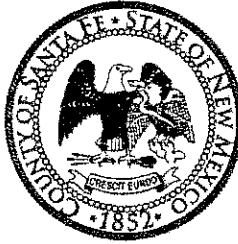


Henry P. Roybal
Commissioner, District 1

Anna C. Hansen
Commissioner, District 2

Robert A. Anaya
Commissioner, District 3



Anna T. Hamilton
Commissioner, District 4

Ed Moreno
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

DATE: October 9, 2018

TO: Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners

VIA: Katherine Miller, County Manager

FROM: Anna C. Hansen, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 2

RE: A Resolution In Support of Legislation in the 2019 Legislative Session to Authorize the Practice of Dental Therapy and Govern the Training and Licensure of Dental Therapists in New Mexico (Commissioner Hansen)

BACKGROUND :

Several realities make access to quality health care in New Mexico a challenge. Almost one in two New Mexicans have no health insurance or are vastly underinsured. We have one of the country's highest poverty levels, and as a large rural state, many areas have few health care services available.

According to the University Of Minnesota School Of Dentistry, a dental therapist is a licensed oral care professional who works in conjunction with a dental care team, providing clinical and therapeutic care. These oral care professionals typically work with uninsured, low-income and underserved populations to help them get necessary dental care. They perform many of the same tasks as dental hygienists, such as cleaning teeth and taking X-rays. These oral care professionals may also provide fillings, replace crowns and perform extractions of baby teeth.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Chair Hansen seeks board approval of this resolution.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2018-

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION IN THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION TO AUTHORIZE THE PRACTICE OF DENTAL THERAPY AND GOVERN THE TRAINING AND LICENSURE OF DENTAL THERAPISTS IN NEW MEXICO

WHEREAS, a healthy community is a key goal for Santa Fe County ("County"); and

WHEREAS, the County has taken an active and strategic role in setting priorities for and funding health care; and

WHEREAS, dental care is strongly linked to overall health, with research showing associations between chronic oral infections and heart and lung diseases, stroke, diabetes, and low-birth-weight, and premature births; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic, Native American, and African American children bear the highest burden of dental disease and the highest learning consequences of dental problems, such as missed school days, lost sleep, and the inability to pay attention in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, as a practical matter, access to dental care is limited even for those who are insured, because of the lack of providers who accept Medicaid, the lack of full dental coverage for most people on Medicaid, the lack of dental coverage for people who have subsidized health plans through the Health Insurance Marketplace ("Exchange"), and the shortage of dentists in rural parts of Santa Fe County; and

WHEREAS, the County Health Care Assistance Program provides substantial funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers for dental services for indigent patients who lack dental insurance, including immigrants who have no access to dental insurance; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the County committed \$50,000 to support the provision of free dental care by "New Mexico Mission of Mercy," held at the Santa Fe Convention Center in April 2016, which provided over 1,000 County residents with free dental care, including dentures, root canals, and other procedures; and

WHEREAS, dental therapists are mid-level practitioners supervised by dentists and offer routine and preventive care, such as cleanings, fillings, and basic restorative care, and would provide care in more community settings across the County and the state; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Public Health Association has long supported legislation authorizing dental therapy, which has been in existence for over twelve years in Alaska and over

seven years in Minnesota, as well as more recently in several other states, including the neighboring state of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe Community College wants to offer dental therapist training; and

WHEREAS, training dental therapists will create livable wage jobs in local communities; and

WHEREAS, if enacted into law, dental therapy legislation would help address the significant shortage of dental practitioners and the lack of access to dental care for many County residents; and

WHEREAS, following the recommendation of the County Health Policy and Planning Commission, the Board of County Commissioners supported legislation in the 2017 legislative session that authorized the practice of dental therapy in the New Mexico.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners supports legislation in the 2019 Legislative Session that authorizes the practice of dental therapy in New Mexico, including the training and licensure of dental therapists.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 9TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2018.
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By _____
Anna Hansen, Chair

ATTEST:

Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


R. Bruce Frederick, Santa Fe County Attorney

Date: 10/2/18

Henry P. Roybal
Commissioner, District 1

Anna Hansen
Commissioner, District 2

Robert A. Anaya
Commissioner, District 3



Anna T. Hamilton
Commissioner, District 4

Ed Moreno
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

DATE: October 9, 2018

TO: Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners

VIA: Katherine Miller, County Manager

FROM: Commissioner Hamilton, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 4

RE: A Resolution Expressing Ongoing Support for the Southwest Chief Passenger Service, Passenger Service Historically Supported By Santa Fe County Through Resolution No. 2012-60 (A Resolution Endorsing Efforts to Maintain the Amtrak Southwest Chief Passenger Service Through Lamy (Santa Fe), New Mexico) and Resolution No. 2014-105 (A Resolution to Support the New Mexico Association of Counties' Resolution to Maintain the Southwest Chief Amtrak Service) (Commissioner Hamilton)

BACKGROUND:

The Southwest Chief is a passenger train that operates daily between Chicago and Los Angeles, with stops in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and California. The Chief brings in a significant number of tourists and provides access for New Mexicans to Amtrak's nationwide system of short- and long distance trains. The annual average Amtrak passenger traffic in New Mexico for 2011 to 2017 ranged from 122,400 to 131,400.

The annual average Amtrak passenger traffic through the Lamy station is approximately 11,000 per year which averages 30 people per day. This level of usage is significant to the economic impact in Lamy and surrounding areas, including Santa Fe. The Amtrak personnel that man the Lamy station are the only source for visitor information on arrival/departure schedule. It should be noted that at present time, there is absolutely no cell phone coverage in Lamy, and there are no public telephones at the station. The potential closure of the Lamy station would strand, approximately 30 people per day.

Amtrak is considering terminating this route and considering termination of this service to avoid the anticipated new cost posed by Positive Train Control (PTC) implementation and required infrastructure upgrades. In August, the United States Senate adopted an amendment to its version of the FY2019 Transportation Appropriations bill requiring Amtrak to set aside \$50 million of funding to benefit sole-use routes like the Southwest Chief. However, there is no corresponding language in the House version of the FY2019 appropriations bill.

Santa Fe County has previously passed Resolution 2012-60, (A Resolution Endorsing Efforts to Maintain the Amtrak Southwest Chief Passenger Service Through Lamy (Santa Fe), New Mexico) and Resolution No. 2014-105 (A Resolution to Support the New Mexico Association of Counties' Resolution to Maintain the Southwest Chief Amtrak Service).

ACTION:

Please consider supporting the New Mexico Congressional Delegation in supporting and maintaining the Southwest Chief on its current route.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018- _____

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING ONGOING SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTHWEST
CHIEF PASSENGER SERVICE, PASSENGER SERVICE HISTORICALLY
SUPPORTED BY SANTA FE COUNTY THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 2012-60 (A
RESOLUTION ENDORSING EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE AMTRAK SOUTHWEST
CHIEF PASSENGER SERVICE THROUGH LAMY (SANTA FE), NEW MEXICO) AND
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-105 (A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE NEW MEXICO
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES' RESOLUTION TO MAINTAIN THE SOUTHWEST
CHIEF AMTRAK SERVICE)**

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County Resolutions No. 2012-60 and No. 2014-105 document Santa Fe County's prior active support and ongoing collaboration with the states of New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas to support the continuation of the Southwest Chief passenger service; and

WHEREAS, these prior efforts included supporting legislation that would:

1. Allow the continuation of Amtrak's Southwest Chief along its current and historic route;
2. Create a Southwest Chief Rail Service Fund or other reasonable funding alternatives; and
3. Support efforts by the New Mexico Congressional Delegation in supporting and maintaining the Southwest Chief on its current route; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak's Southwest Chief serves northern New Mexico on its route between Chicago and Los Angeles on the host railroad line of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF); and

WHEREAS, according to the Rail Passengers Association, the annual average Amtrak passenger traffic in New Mexico for 2011 to 2017 has been consistently high, ranging from 122,400 to 131,400; and

WHEREAS, the Rail Passengers Association reported that for 2017, the most recent full year of record, the total annual New Mexico passenger traffic of 122,400 was distributed as follows: Albuquerque – 74,293; Deming – 1,469; Gallup – 15,481; Lamy – 10,768; Las Vegas – 4,487; Lordsburg – 742; Raton – 15,122; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak passenger traffic through the Lamy station is between 10,000 and 11,000 people per year, equating to an average of 27-30 people per day. This level of usage is significant to the potential economic activity in Lamy and surrounding areas, including Santa Fe; and

WHEREAS, the Report of the Annual Economic Impact of Amtrak's Southwest Chief in New Mexico, dated November 11, 2013, and filed with the New Mexico Interim Transportation Infrastructure Sub-Committee on November 12, 2013, assesses the annual visitor spending impact in the Lamy-Raton corridor at \$29.3 million in economic output, \$8.9 million in worker earnings and 368 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak is considering terminating this route and considering alternatives that include bus-bridges and relying on shuttling between Kansas City and Albuquerque; and

WHEREAS, the current Amtrak Southwest Chief service extends from Chicago to Los Angeles, and passes through Kansas City, Raton, Las Vegas, Lamy, Albuquerque and Gallup; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak is considering termination of this service to avoid the anticipated new cost posed by Positive Train Control (PTC) implementation and required infrastructure upgrades; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak anticipates a large capital cost to install PTC for this route; and

WHEREAS, for the 483 mile segment from Dodge City to Lamy, representing track owned by BNSF, there are no plans to install PTC, and Amtrak estimates the capital cost for this segment of PTC at \$53.3 million; and

WHEREAS, for the 82 mile segment from Lamy to Isleta, owned by the New Mexico Department of Transportation, NMDOT apparently plans to install PTC after 2018, and Amtrak indicates it cannot continue its operations on this segment if a Mainline Track Exclusion Area (MTEA) is not granted by the end of 2018; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate FY2019 Transportation Appropriations bill includes language supporting approximately \$50 million in capital funding for safety improvements and maintenance, but the House version of the bill does not; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Santa Fe County reaffirms its two prior resolutions, and calls upon the Governor of the State of New Mexico, members of the legislature of the State of New Mexico, and the congressional delegation of the State of New Mexico, to strongly endorse continuation of Amtrak's current Southwest Chief route through northern New Mexico.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of October, 2018.

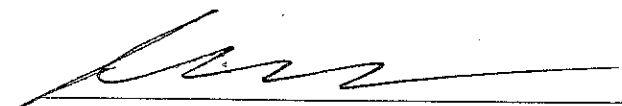
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

Anna Hansen, Chair

ATTEST:

Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



R. Bruce Frederick, County Attorney

