

SANTA FE COUNTY

Resolution No. 2009 - ///

A RESOLUTION URGING IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE FEDERAL HEALTH REFORM LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, experts across the political spectrum agree that America's health system is "broken" and unsustainable in its present configuration;

WHEREAS, families in Santa Fe County are experiencing this crisis now, confronting the high cost of health care that threatens their financial stability, leaves them exposed to higher premiums and deductibles, and puts them at risk for a loss of health insurance;

WHEREAS, employer-sponsored health insurance premiums have nearly doubled in recent years, making it increasingly difficult for employers, including county governments, to provide health insurance coverage for their employees;

WHEREAS, millions of Americans do not have health coverage or have inadequate coverage and as our economic challenges multiply the problem of health care access grows, further straining counties' capacity to provide care for the uninsured, underinsured and indigent;

WHEREAS, county officials are elected to protect the health and welfare of their constituents;

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County's costs for meeting health obligations like indigent care, subsidies for hospitals and clinics, behavioral health, public health, inmate health, non-federal share of Medicaid, etc exceeded \$18,000,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties (NACo) Health System Reform Working Group, appointed by President Don Stapley in July 2008 and chaired by President-Elect Valerie Brown, has held three regional hearings to explore the health crisis and to hear what county officials believe should be done about it, and has summarized its findings in *Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System*, which was approved and adopted by resolution of the NACo Health Steering Committee and Board of Directors on March 9, 2009.

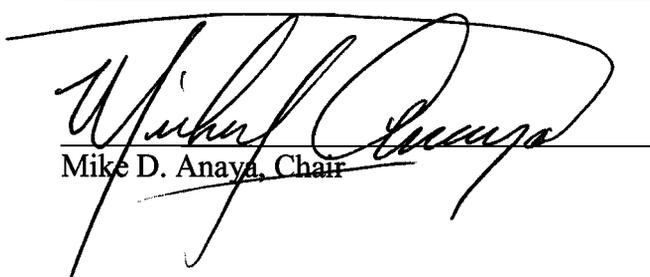
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners endorses NACo's health reform principles, as summarized in *Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System*, namely that reform legislation should:

1. restore the partnership between county and federal governments;
2. provide access to affordable, quality health care to all;
3. invest in public health, including health promotion and disease and injury prevention;
4. stabilize and strengthen the local health care safety net system, especially Medicaid and disproportional share hospital (DSH) payments;
5. invest in the development of the health professional and paraprofessional workforce;
6. ensure that county health agencies have the resources to meaningfully use health information technology;
7. enable elderly and disabled persons to receive the services they need in the least restrictive environment; and
8. reform the delivery and financing of health services in the jail system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board strongly urges the 111th Congress of the United States to enact comprehensive health reform legislation without delay before the end of its first session.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 30th DAY OF JUNE 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Mike D. Anaya, Chair

ATTEST:


Valerie Espinoza, Santa Fe County Clerk



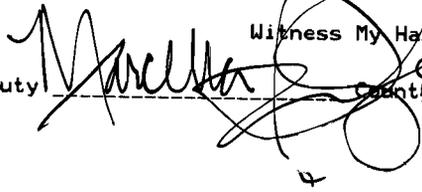
APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE) BCC RESOLUTIONS
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: **3**

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 1ST Day Of July, 2009 at 12:09:04 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1568933**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM