

# SANTA FE COUNTY

## Resolution No. 2008 -

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### RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS THE HEALTH SECURITY ACT

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**WHEREAS**, the health insurance crisis in New Mexico is growing worse as evidenced by the fact that almost one out of four New Mexicans is uninsured including many residents of Santa Fe County; and

**WHEREAS**, premiums are escalating at double digit rates, co-pays are increasing and pharmaceutical drug costs are rising; and

**WHEREAS**, rising health care costs and the lack of health insurance coverage for so many New Mexicans result in a social and economic burden for the affected families, employers, health care providers, the County of Santa Fe and the State of New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, decreasing the percentage of county and state expenditures on health care will free up funds to be spent in other sectors such as economic development, education, and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Security Act offers a comprehensive solution enabling New Mexico to set up its own health care plan that would guarantee that all New Mexicans - regardless of age, employment or health status – will have comprehensive, affordable and quality health coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Security Act, by pooling most New Mexicans into one health risk pool, would substantially contain costs, reduce administrative complexity, and eliminate uncompensated care; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Security Act would further allow for bulk purchasing of drugs, provide for the protection of retiree benefits, and would be able to reap the benefits of economies of scale; and

**WHEREAS**, studies show, including two conducted in New Mexico (one by the Lewin Group in 1994 and a recent one by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.), that combining all or most New Mexicans into one health risk pool would substantially control health care costs, reduce administrative complexity and eliminate uncompensated care; and

**WHEREAS**, over 130 diverse New Mexico organizations and 27 cities and counties endorse the Health Security Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the interim health and human services committee in its November 2007 final report to the Legislative Finance Committee noted that when they held hearings around the state they had a tremendous amount of public input - most of it from proponents of the Health Security Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Security Act has widespread public support.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County supports and endorses the Health Security Act; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County will work to ensure passage of a health security act that will preserve federal funding and not result in a diminution of services to New Mexicans, and will urge the New Mexico Association of Counties to make such a health security act a legislative priority.

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2008.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS3**

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Jack Sullivan, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

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Valerie Espinoza, Santa Fe County Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney