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For Immediate Release

New Mexico's Healthcare Crisis Is a Government Failure—and Families Are Paying the Price

New Mexico is NOT a poor state. New Mexico is a poorly run state—and the healthcare system proves it every day. Families wait months for appointments, drive hours for care, lose doctors to friendlier states, and pay more while bureaucrats add red tape and politicians push government-run plans that would leave patients with fewer choices. Bernalillo County Republicans are demanding a patient-first healthcare agenda that expands affordable care close to home, protects the providers who keep communities alive, treats behavioral health as real healthcare, uses technology wisely, and rejects one-size-fits-all schemes that put government between patients and care.

1. **Put patients first.** Healthcare should fit everyday life—not government convenience. New Mexicans need doctors, nurses, technicians, hospitals, and behavioral health care when and where they need it, with the freedom to choose quality care and a true safety net for those who cannot afford it.
2. **Defend the delivery systems New Mexicans rely on.** UNMH, Presbyterian, and other major providers must be protected from policies that weaken access, increase costs, or push care farther from families.
3. **Treat behavioral health as healthcare.** Addiction, mental health, and crisis care cannot be political talking points; they must be part of a serious, accountable healthcare strategy.
4. **Protect providers and patients.** Doctors, nurses, technicians, hospitals, and patients are the backbone of a healthy state and a prosperous economy; public policy should help them deliver care, not drive them away.
5. **End defensive medicine.** New Mexico must stop forcing providers to practice medicine for the courtroom instead of the exam room.
6. **Get trial lawyers out of healthcare.** New Mexico will not bring doctors back by rewarding lawsuit games that raise costs, shrink access, and punish patients.
 - Cap attorney fees in medical malpractice cases so awards serve injured patients—not courtroom windfalls.
 - End punitive damages in medical malpractice cases that fuel jackpot litigation and push providers out of New Mexico.
 - Adopt “loser pays” for legal fees and costs in medical malpractice litigation to

discourage weak claims and abusive tactics.

- End venue shopping so cases are heard where they belong, not where trial lawyers think they can get the biggest payout.
7. **Cut the bureaucracy.** Streamline healthcare oversight, including the Healthcare Authority and other entities, so government stops measuring success by the amount of red tape it creates and starts measuring success by access, affordability, and outcomes.

Our Standard Is Simple: protect patients, back providers, cut the red tape, restore accountability, and spend public money only where it delivers measurable results for New Mexico families.

“Bernalillo County Republicans are offering a clear alternative to the failed status quo: lower costs, more providers, shorter waits, stronger hospitals, real behavioral health care, and a government that gets out of the way when families need care,” said Daphne Orner, Chair of the Republican Party of Bernalillo County.