

**Resolution No. 2020-21  
UNION COUNTY**

**Resolution Supporting the New Mexico Counties  
2020 Legislative Priorities**

**WHEREAS**, in October 2019, the New Mexico Counties Board of Directors approved four legislative priorities for consideration by the New Mexico Legislature at its 2020 session; *and*

**WHEREAS**, NMC has requested that the Board of County Commissioners in each of the state's 33 counties discuss and approve support for NMC's legislative priorities as an important step in assuring maximum understanding of NMC's legislative priorities at the county level; *and*

**WHEREAS**, county support enables NMC to demonstrate strong local and statewide support to the state legislature for the following issues:

**1. HB 2 Appropriations**

Detention Reimbursement Fund

Increase funding under the County Detention Facility Reimbursement Act (Section 33-3B-1 et seq. NMSA) to reimburse counties for the cost of housing state prisoners. The cost to counties under the Act is approximately \$8.4 million. Last year the Legislature appropriated only \$2.3 million.

Prisoner Transport and Extradition

Create a line item in the Department of Finance & Administration budget for \$750,000 to reimburse sheriffs' offices that provide transportation of state prisoners pursuant to Section 4-44-18C NMSA. Although the Legislature contemplated reimbursing counties for this state expense, no money has been appropriated to counties for many years.

EMS Funding

Appropriate \$5 million annually to the Emergency Medical Services Fund in the Department of Health budget and identify a designated revenue mechanism to provide continuous fund growth and stability.

**2. Law Enforcement Protection Fund**

Increase distributions from the Law Enforcement Protection Fund (Section 29-13-1 et seq. NMSA) to local law enforcement agencies in accordance with the purpose of the Act: to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement services.

**3. Behavioral Health**

Renew and expand funding for the Human Services Department to provide behavioral health services to adult and juvenile offenders housed in county detention centers to reduce the likelihood of recidivism. Services should include targeted, individualized interventions that address detainee behavioral health needs while incarcerated and connect them to supportive

housing, public assistance, medical and mental health care, and employment training as needed, immediately upon release.

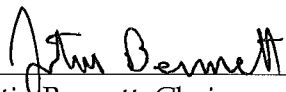
4. **PERA Solvency**

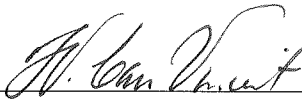
Oppose increases in local government PERA contributions. New Mexico public employers' rates currently are among the highest in the country. Any further increases in county government are ultimately absorbed by the local taxpayer.

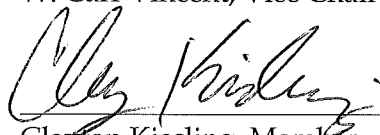
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union Board of County Commissioners does hereby support NMC's legislative priorities as set forth above, and urges that legislation incorporating these priorities be enacted by the state legislature during its 2020 session.

ADOPTED this 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF [COUNTY], NEW MEXICO

  
Justin Bennett, Chair,  For /  Against

  
W. Carr Vincent, Vice Chair  For /  Against

  
Clayton Kiesling, Member  For /  Against

ATTEST:  
  
Mary Lou Harkins,  
Union County Clerk