

Resolution No 2022-15

Resolution Supporting the New Mexico Counties  
2022 Legislative Priorities

**WHEREAS**, in October 2021, the New Mexico Counties Board of Directors approved three legislative priorities for consideration by the New Mexico Legislature at its 2022 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

Restore the County Detention Facilities Reimbursement Act to the original appropriation of \$5 million. Currently the NM Legislature appropriates \$2.3 million even though the NM Sentencing Commission estimates the state owes counties over \$8 million a year for holding state prisoners.

Prisoner Transport and Extradition

Create a line item in the DFA budget with \$750,000 to reimburse counties that provide transportation for state prisoners. Statute requires the state to make such payment, however no money has been appropriated to counties for many years. Counties should not have to pay for state prisoner extradition.

RISE Funding

Make permanent and increase county participation in the RISE (Reach, Intervene, Support and Engage) Program. RISE is a partnership between the NM Behavioral Health Services Division and several county jails to reduce recidivism and help non-violent offenders get treatment to stay out of jail. As we start to see more concrete results, we hope to be able to add more counties and jails into that partnership.

**2. Law Enforcement Protection Fund**

The state imposes taxes on insurance policies every year to pay for things like improved fire services and protecting law enforcement officers, yet every year millions of dollars have been taken from those funds to help pay for other areas in state government. We recently fixed the fire fund, now we need to keep the state from taking money from the LEPF. The \$5-\$6 million dollars that goes back into the GF should be going to local law enforcement agencies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement services.

**3. Courthouse Funding**

Create a matching fund to help counties pay for construction and renovation of state district courthouses with an initial capital outlay request of \$50-\$100 million. This is another unfunded county mandate that we would like to alleviate in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Union County 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 2022 session.

ADOPTED this 9th of November, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF [COUNTY], NEW MEXICO

Justin Bennett  
Justin Bennett, Chair  For  Against

Clayton Kiesling  
Clayton Kiesling, Member  For  Against

Walter C. Hall  
Walter Hall, Member  For  Against



ATTEST:

Brenda Green  
Brenda Green  
County Clerk