

New Mexico State Senate

State Capitol
Santa Fe

COMMITTEES:

MEMBER:
• Finance

SENATOR NICOLE TOBIASSEN

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Dear Friend,

It is my honor to serve you as your State Senator in Santa Fe, so I wanted to update you on the current legislative session.

As a conservative my priority is protecting *your* taxpayer dollars.

We owe it to hard-working taxpayers to be fiscally responsible. For that reason, much of what conservatives do during session is to fight ultra-progressive legislation so we can protect working families.

Given that we are heavily outnumbered by progressives in the legislature, common-sense conservatives must fight and defend against the left-wing majority each session.

The bad news this year: they have not addressed crime & juvenile offenders, they have increased taxes, and they have killed the CYFD reform package.

Senate Bill 4 was one of the most egregious spending bills. It cast \$340M into the wind for "Green" projects. I strongly opposed it.

One of the most critical issues that needs to be addressed is crime—particularly in Albuquerque. Instead of addressing crime the majority party pushed a bill (unbelievably) to give violent criminals \$2000 per month for tuition when they are released from incarceration.

There are countless examples, but suffice it to say, I voted "No" a lot.

In spite of the political power of the other side, and ability to ram through almost whatever they want because they have the numbers, our side had some major wins in seeing some very bad legislation defeated.

The most significant victory was the defeat of House Bill 11, the so-called "Paid Family Medical Leave" act.



It would have imposed dramatic tax increases on New Mexicans everywhere; it would have devastated our economy; and it would have harmed workers with fewer economic opportunities, not to mention those who employed them. This was an enormous win.

I am also very grateful that my bill SB283 passed the Senate, which protects government funding for foster children from being absorbed into the the CYFD bureaucracy.

I also got \$10 million appropriated for statewide adult literacy programs, so we can get adults fully engaged in the workforce.

We also passed HB167 to make GED tests free and provide structured literacy accountability and training in the Public Education Department. These are both huge wins for New Mexicans that I was proud to sponsor and get across the finish line!

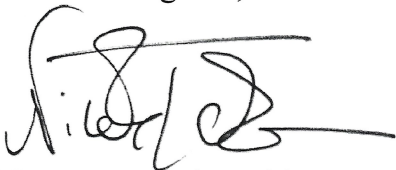
We also passed a bill that has the potential to help our education statistics as well as do away with the Public Education Department and go back to a State School Board. That initiative hopefully will be on the ballot soon and voters will have a chance to enshrine that change into law.

With New Mexico once again last in national education rankings, we have to change. We have tried the same thing for 20 years and we have failed our children. It's time to try something different.

Finally, the Governor has now called in the National Guard to address the crime crisis in Albuquerque. This would not have been necessary if Democrats in the House and Senate would actually look at the proposals Republicans have been making for the past decade to reform the criminal justice system. This would never have been necessary if we were able to pass legislation to keep criminals awaiting trial in prison. No amount of police can deal with a system that puts the criminal they just arrested back into the street, on the same day.

I hope all is well with you and yours. It is my privilege to serve you in the State Senate. As always, if you need to contact me feel free to call me at (505) 209-7716 or send me an email at nicole.tobiassen@nmlegis.gov or visit my website at <https://nicoleformm.com>.

Sincere Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Tobiasen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Nicole Tobiasen