Nicole Chavez
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 31

THE CHAVEZ CHECK-IN

TAKING YOUR VOICE TO THE ROUNDHOUSE

2026 Legislative Session Recap

The 2026 Legislative Session brought long days, tough debates, and delivered **meaningful results for New Mexico Families.**

This session, **I made improving health care access a top priority** and fought for real solutions that strengthen our **provider workforce** and protect **patient access** across our state. Throughout the 30-day session, I stayed focused on **defending our constitutional rights, standing up for working New Mexico families**, and delivering measurable results for my district and our communities.

We successfully moved forward critical progress on healthcare and public safety, including **a bill I co-sponsored** tackling **felony in possession to hold violent offenders accountable.**

There is still serious work ahead. It is deeply disappointing that **pretrial bail reform** and **juvenile justice reform** were not addressed this session, and I will continue fighting until they are.

House Bill 99 - Medical Malpractive Reform

HB 99, the critical medical malpractice reform I was proud to co-sponsor, s**uccessfully passed both the House and Senate** and is now headed to the **Governor's desk.**

This legislation brings **long-overdue** balance to our system by stabilizing and raising the caps in a responsible way, establishing a **clear path** for future adjustments, and creating more predictability in payouts so providers can obtain and afford malpractice coverage. It also **strengthens patient protections** by ensuring claims are paid while reducing the pressure that has been driving physicians, especially in high-risk specialties and rural communities out of our state.

"I was excited to see this important legislation move forward because it directly **protects patient access to care**, helps us **retain the doctors** we have, and makes New Mexico more **competitive in recruiting** new providers. In addition, we passed several much needed health care compacts to streamline licensure and allow qualified professionals to begin practicing here more quickly. Together with HB 99, these reforms are a major step toward rebuilding our health care workforce and improving access for families across New Mexico."

-State Representative Nicole Chavez

https://nicolechavezfornm.com

Senate Bill 17 -Unconstitutional Gun Legislation Defeated

House and Senate Republicans stood firm against SB 17, legislation that would have banned commonly owned rifles and limited **law-abiding citizens** to no more than 10-round magazines, equipment that is **standard** for many responsible gun owners for **self-defense and lawful use**. The bill also imposed **significant new mandates** on federally licensed firearm dealers (FFLs), requiring **costly compliance changes,** expanded storage and transfer requirements, and additional liability exposure that many of our small, locally owned businesses said they simply could not afford. For some, those unfunded mandates would have meant **shutting their doors entirely.**

"THIS BILL DID NOTHING TO ADDRESS THE CRIMINALS WHO OBTAIN FIREARMS ILLEGALLY OR TO HOLD VIOLENT OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE. INSTEAD, IT PLACED THE BURDEN SQUARELY ON RESPONSIBLE NEW MEXICANS AND THE SMALL BUSINESSES THAT SERVE THEM."
-REPRESNTATIVE NICOLE CHAVEZ

SINE DIE

Sine Die marks the close of an intense session, but the work continues. **Thank you to the constituents who called, emailed, testified, and stayed involved. Your voices truly make a difference.**

looking ahead, New Mexicans have an important opportunity to continue moving our state in the right direction. I will continue to focus on improving public safety and pursuing meaningful, lasting change at CYFD.

IT IS AN HONOR TO SERVE DISTRICT 31.

Nicole Chavez

CONTACT MY OFFICE ANYTIME:

NicoleChavezForNM.com
District Contact
Jill Michel
District Legislative Aide
House District 31
Jill.Michel@NMLegis.gov
(505) 946-5631 Ext: 5631

Paid for by Nicole Chavez for New Mexico, Joy Cordova Treasurer