

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RELEASE: HOUSE REPUBLICANS SOUND
ALARM, UNVEIL HOPE ACT**

Santa Fe, NM- With only 12 days left in the 2025 Legislative Session, House Republicans are sounding the alarm. Democrats have made nothing but disingenuous attempts at solving the issues that are plaguing our state. The truth is, our healthcare system is on life support, crime thrives on our streets, and New Mexican's are being forced to pinch pennies.

"New Mexico's healthcare system is bleeding. It takes months to see a specialist and those who need care the most are left behind. We cannot afford to sidestep solutions. That's why we are unveiling the Healthcare, opportunity, protection, and expansion Act, or the HOPE Act. This bill is a multi-pronged approach that will recruit and retain high quality caregivers for the people of our state. With only 12 days left in the Legislative session, New Mexicans are waiting on us to act," said Rep. Jenifer Jones.

"We must address crime head on. Democrats continue to kill commonsense solutions to our crime epidemic. The Governor, District Attorney Same Bregman, prosecutors, victims, and everyday New Mexicans have demanded that we get serious about juvenile crime. Yet, the Democrats tabled the one bill that would have done that. Instead, they passed the Homicide Scholarship, HB255, a bill that would give \$2,000 a month to formerly incarcerated youths. This is a slap in the face. We cannot coddle violent offenders, we must hold them accountable," said Rep. Andrea Reeb .

"The Democrat's 'crime package' was just a start to addressing New Mexico's crime crisis. On top of that their Homicide Scholarship, which would give our state's most violent offenders \$2,000 a month, is a slap in the face. My son's

murderer, who got a slap on the wrist with a one-year sentence, would be eligible to receive this stipend. That is an absolute injustice. It's a shame to be here after 10 years of advocacy and get nothing but excuses. We provided common sense solutions, and they were shot down. Time is running out and New Mexicans are waiting for solutions," said Rep. Nicole Chavez said Rep. Nicole Chavez

"New Mexicans are feeling the pain at the grocery store and at the gas pump. Four years of failed economic policy have raised prices across the board. On top of that, Democrats have passed bills that will do nothing but raise taxes and energy prices on the middle class," said Rep. Rebecca Dow.

Details of HOPE Act:

- Rural Health Care Practitioner Tax Credit Increase
 - Expands eligibility for more healthcare workers.
 - Raises tax credit amounts from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for physicians and from \$3,000 to \$9,000 for other practitioners.
- New Physician Income Tax Credit
 - Offers a \$50,000 annual tax credit for up to five years to doctors who practice full-time in New Mexico and have student loan debt.
 - Medical Residency Loan Repayment Program
- Establishes a state fund to help medical residents and fellows pay off student loans.
 - Requires recipients to work in New Mexico for five years.
- Medical Malpractice Law Reforms

- Caps certain damage awards and limits punitive damages in malpractice cases.
 - Ensures malpractice payments from the state fund are made as expenses are incurred.
- Medicaid Cost Study Mandate
 - Requires regular cost studies to ensure fair reimbursement rates for Medicaid providers.
- Health Insurance Reforms
 - Prohibits prior authorization requirements for chemotherapy, dialysis, elder care, home health care, and some prescription drugs.
 - Ensures faster patient access to critical treatments.