

RESOLUTION NO. 2014- 41

REGARDING HEALTHCARE POLICY (SB 268/HOSPITAL FUNDING)

WHEREAS, New Mexico counties care greatly about health care for their local citizens and value their local hospitals, particularly in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, counties have long played an integral role in providing health care services for their indigent residents; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 20 years counties have worked collaboratively with their local community hospitals in helping fund the Sole Community Provider program and in coordinating health care for their local citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Sole Community Provider program has now been replaced by the Safety Net Care Pool (SNCP), which provides funding for community hospitals for Medicaid base rate increases and uncompensated care for Medicaid patients; and

WHEREAS, the counties' role under the SNCP has been significantly diminished and their financial contribution to the SNCP no longer has any relationship to the funds disseminated by the Human Services Department (HSD) to the counties' respective community hospitals; and

WHEREAS, information provided by HSD regarding the SNCP has been confusing and often contradictory, and the distribution formula to community hospitals has been inequitable and difficult to ascertain; and

WHEREAS, finding a solution to funding the SNCP requires communication and cooperation among the various stakeholders—counties, hospitals, and the state, in both the legislative and executive branches; and

WHEREAS, the SNCP is part of the federal Medicaid program, and is therefore a state responsibility that should be fully funded by the state; and

WHEREAS, SB268, as passed by the legislature in 2014, required most counties to contribute the equivalent of a 1/12th % gross receipts tax (grt) increment to the SNCP, and was intended to be a three-year interim solution for funding that program; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's line item veto of the three-year limitation on county funding of SNCP will result in unlimited long term county financial responsibility for the program that will ultimately cost the counties hundreds of millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, that long term county financial responsibility was neither authorized nor intended by the legislature in SB 268.

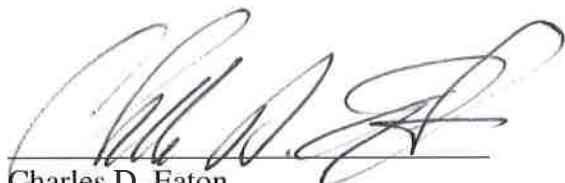
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Valencia County Board of County Commissioners supports legislation that would accomplish one or more of the following:

1. increase the state budget to fully fund the new SNCP and amend SB268 to remove counties' responsibility to fund the SNCP;
2. transfer the new county 1/12th grt to the state to fund the SNCP;
3. consolidate particular existing county local option grt increments that are in many cases unused and unusable, and de-earmark others;
4. authorize a state hospital bed tax, the proceeds of which could be used to fund the SNCP, to be matched with federal funds;
5. to develop solutions that would remove the financing of hospitals from counties and place that responsibility with the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Valencia County Board of County Commissioners supports the New Mexico Association of Counties' Board of Directors in authorizing the NMAC Healthcare Policy Committee to work collaboratively and in consultation with the NMAC

Executive Committee in order to flesh out priority solutions with the Governor's office and Legislative leadership.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED on this 26th day of August, 2014.



Charles D. Eaton
Chairman, District IV



Alicia Aguilar
Vice-Chair, District II



Mary J. Andersen
Commissioner, District I

Lawrence R. Romero
Commissioner, District III



Jhonathan Aragon
Commissioner, District V

Attest:

Peggy Carabahal, County Clerk

