



January 28, 2026

Representative Nathan P. Small
Chair, House Appropriations & Finance
Committee
Room 304B, State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Representative Jack Chatfield
Ranking Member, House Appropriations &
Finance Committee
Room 203FN, State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Representative Meredith Dixon
Vice Chair, House Appropriations & Finance
Committee
Room 304C, State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: Fully Funding the Healthcare Affordability Fund in House Bill 2

Dear Chair Small, Vice Chair Dixon, Ranking Member Chatfield and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's request to fully fund the Healthcare Affordability Fund (HCAF). Doing so would help to protect small businesses across the state from skyrocketing healthcare costs and allow entrepreneurs to focus on running and growing their business.

The Healthcare Affordability Fund was passed in 2021 to improve affordability and expand coverage for families in New Mexico. At the start of the legislative session, [we called](#) for the fund to be strengthened. We recommended that the state should increase funding to HCAF and ensure that it reaches the most vulnerable populations. This would help to safeguard the HCAF's coverage protection programs that help individuals with premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

That is why we urge you to support the Governor's request to fully fund the program. The Executive budget recommendation should be adopted because it would continue a 10-15% premium reduction for small businesses offering plans to their employees and their dependents. It would also maintain lower costs for individuals on BeWell and protect all enrollees from significant premium increases due to the expiration of the Affordable Care Act's Enhanced Premium Tax Credits at the end of 2025.

Without fully funding the HCAF, the realities of rising healthcare costs will harm small businesses across the state. We urge you to fully fund the program this year to protect small businesses.

Sincerely,

Awesta Sarkash
Senior Public Policy Director
Small Business Majority