



February 12, 2026

Honorable Javier Martinez  
Speaker  
New Mexico House of Representatives  
Room 104, State Capitol  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable Gail Armstrong  
Minority Leader  
New Mexico House of Representatives  
Room 125C, State Capitol  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

*RE: Votes YES for Healthcare Affordability Fund in House Bill 4*

Dear Speaker Martinez, Minority Leader Armstrong, and Members of the New Mexico House of Representatives:

I am writing in support of HB 4, the Healthcare Affordability Fund (HCAF) Distribution bill. This legislation would help to protect small businesses across the state from skyrocketing healthcare costs and allow entrepreneurs to focus on running and growing their businesses.

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 HB 4. This bill would increase the share of surtax revenue dedicated to healthcare affordability over the next several years until the fund reaches 100% distribution, creating sustainable, reliable investments. As a result, small businesses and workers are shielded from rising healthcare costs. What's more, rural providers will see less uncompensated care—an integral component to costs for rural small businesses across the state.

Without a long-term funding structure for the HCAF, the realities of rising healthcare costs will harm small businesses and their employees across the state. We urge you to vote YES on HB 4.

Sincerely,

Awesta Sarkash  
Senior Public Policy Director  
Small Business Majority