

# ACCESS TO CARE

## Protecting and Expanding Healthcare Access for All New Mexicans

New Mexicans rely on their community hospitals—which may be hours from home or in another county—to provide the care they need when they need it. To offer reliable, timely and equitable care to every patient, hospitals require ample, well-educated and caring staff. They need a stable financial foundation to support these providers, keep facilities and technology up-to-date and invest in the health and wellness of their communities. New Mexico must have an environment that sustains recruitment and retention of medical professionals, fosters innovation within our healthcare system and above all—strengthens access to care across our vast state.

### THE ACCESS EMERGENCY



New Mexico is the 5th largest state by geography, but the 5th smallest by population density.<sup>1</sup> Hospitals are few and far between: We are 46<sup>th</sup> among US states by hospital beds per 1,000 people.<sup>2</sup>



Even in urban areas, New Mexicans often wait months to see a doctor.



New Mexico has an aging baby boomer population that requires frequent care and more complex care than ever before.



New Mexico's doctors are among the country's oldest, with 39% of physicians over age 60 and likely to retire by 2030.<sup>3</sup> Our current shortage of nurses is dire. New Mexico needs 8,800 nurses, statewide.<sup>4</sup>



New Mexico must compete with all other states in the country to attract workers—including specialty physicians—as the healthcare worker shortage is nationwide.



Often, rural hospitals do not see enough patients to benefit from savings that come with volume. When rural hospitals cannot support services that meet community needs, it puts further strain on urban hospitals, limiting access there as well.

DURING THE 2025 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE SESSION, NEW MEXICO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, ON BEHALF OF 47 COMMUNITY HOSPITALS, WILL CHAMPION PROPOSALS THAT PROTECT AND EXPAND ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE STATEWIDE:

#### WORKFORCE

- Supporting our current healthcare workforce
- “Growing our own” New Mexico healthcare professionals
- Addressing our provider shortage by making New Mexico competitive
- Removing barriers to recruitment and retention

#### OPERATIONS

- Promoting financial stability and sustainability
- Reducing barriers to viability, growth and innovation
- Challenging onerous regulation and government overreach

NMHA WILL OPPOSE PROPOSALS THAT THREATEN OR FURTHER REDUCE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE STATEWIDE.



New Mexico  
Hospital Association

# ACCESS TO CARE

## Protecting and Expanding Healthcare Access for All New Mexicans

Please do not hesitate to contact the NMHA advocacy team. We are always here to assist you in developing smart, impactful health policy for the good of your constituents who are our patients, and all the communities of New Mexico.

We look forward to working closely with you.

### CONTACT US



**Troy Clark**  
President & CEO  
(505) 235-9844 • mobile  
[tclark@nmhsc.com](mailto:tclark@nmhsc.com)

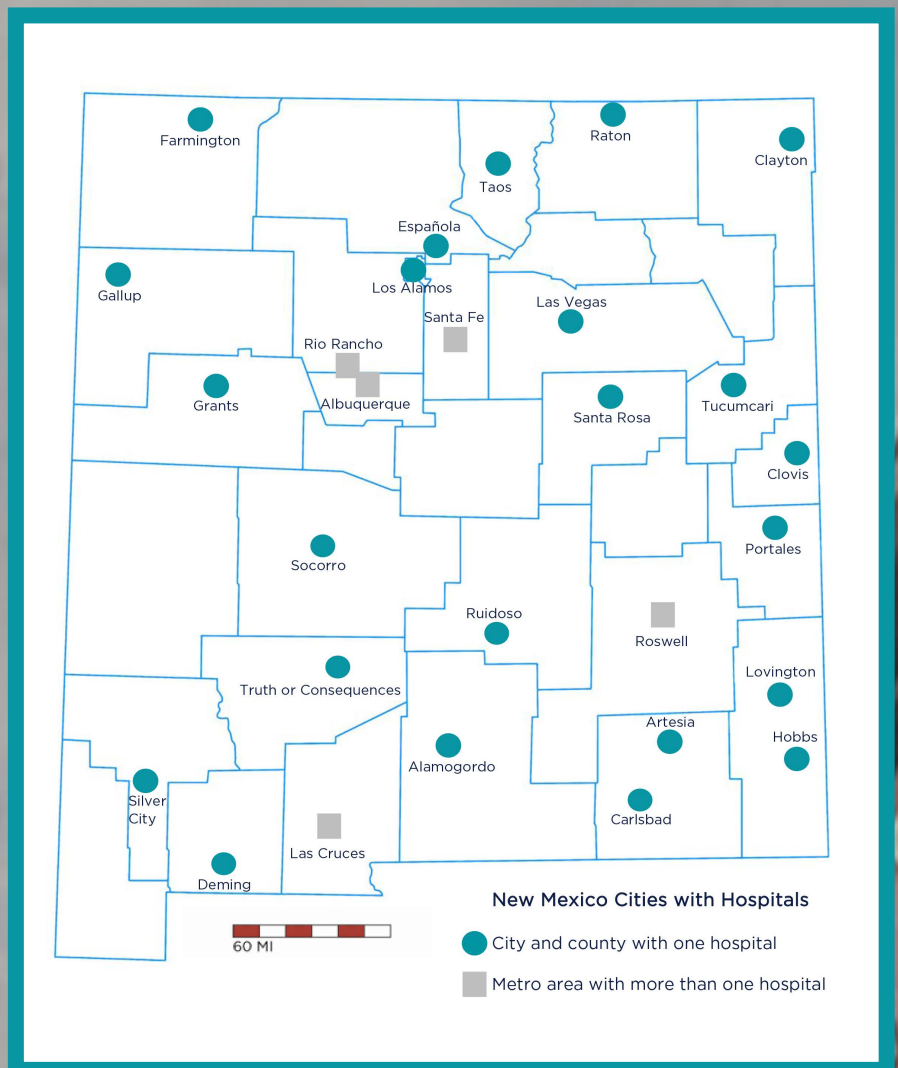


**Julia Ruetten**  
Senior Director  
Government Affairs  
(505) 340-9489 • mobile  
[jruetten@nmhsc.com](mailto:jruetten@nmhsc.com)

**Al Park**  
Contract Lobbyist  
(505) 235-1408 • mobile  
[apark@parklawnm.com](mailto:apark@parklawnm.com)

**Jason Weaks**  
Contract Lobbyist  
(505) 903-0167 • mobile  
[jrw.weakslaw@gmail.com](mailto:jrw.weakslaw@gmail.com)

**NMHA**  
505.343.0010  
[www.nmhospitals.org](http://www.nmhospitals.org)  
@nmhospitals:



1. US Census Bureau: [https://data.census.gov/profile/New\\_Mexico?q=040XX00US35](https://data.census.gov/profile/New_Mexico?q=040XX00US35)  
2. National Institutes of Health: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK569311/table/ch3.tab43/>  
3. Think New Mexico, 25th Anniversary Report, *How to Solve New Mexico's Health Care Worker Shortage*, 2024: <https://www.thinknewmexico.org/policy-reports/>  
4. New Mexico Political Report 9-25-2024, quoting NM LHHS Committee 9-24-2024: <https://nmpoliticalreport.com/nmleg/new-mexico-in-critical-nursing-shortage/>



**New Mexico  
Hospital Association**