

Legislative Preview

By: Ellen Pinnes and The Disability Coalition

The New Mexico Legislature will convene for a special session at noon on Saturday. Jim Jackson's legislative preview report is attached for information on the state budget situation and major issues for the disability community.

I encourage you to contact your legislators and let them know your wishes as they make decisions on the budget. Tell them:

- Medicaid services are important to people with disabilities. Medicaid has already given up huge amounts of money to balance the budget and shouldn't be cut any further.
- The \$9.4 million appropriated for the DD waiver waitlist should stay in the budget, and the Department of Health should be pushed to use that money as directed by the Legislature.
- The state's budget problems are the result of reduced revenues, and the Legislature needs to look at ways to raise revenue instead of balancing the budget by cutting programs for those who need those services.

Through Friday, you should contact legislators in their home districts -- to get contact information, go to the legislative website at www.nmlegis.gov, click on "Members" and then on "Find Your Legislator". From Saturday until the end of the special session, you can call the Capitol switchboard at 505-986-4300 to leave messages for your legislators, or use their e-mail address if they list one.

Thanks for making the voice of the disability community heard!