

Veterans & Military Families Caucus

Democratic Party of New Mexico

2025 Legislative Report Card



Who supported legislation for veterans and military families? Our HEROES and CHAMPIONS!

VMF Heroes

45 Legislators who **sponsored** priority legislation

VMF Champions

49 Legislators who **voted** 100% in support of priority legislation



What was our Priority Legislation?

We break them down into the following categories:

20 Pieces of legislation! ✓ Direct Impact to Veterans & Military Families

✓ Healthcare including Behavioral Healthcare

✓ Modern and Efficient State Government





Here are our HEROES

These 13 legislators sponsored Priority Legislation with Direct Impact to Veterans & Military Families





Rep Art De La Cruz - (D) District: 12 County: Bernalillo

HB 47 PASSED Veteran Property Tax Exemptions

Representatives De La Cruz, A. Martinez, Terrazas; and Senator Figueroa





Rep Alan T. Martinez - (R) Minority Whip District: 23 County: Sandoval Provides direction to county assessors/collectors to implement the property tax exemptions allowed under the constitutional amendments approved by the voters.

House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee – Do Pass (DP); House Taxation and Revenue Committee - DP; House passed 62-0; Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee - DP; Senate Judiciary Committee - DP; Senate Passed 39-0. Governor signed.







Rep Debra M. Sariñana - (D) District: 21 County: Bernalillo



Rep Alan T. Martinez - (R) Minority Whip District: 23 County: Sandoval

HB 158 PASSED MILITARY BASE PLANNING AND IMPACT ACT

Representatives Sariñana, A. Martinez; and Senator Pope

Creates and appropriates funding to a grant fund providing assistance for infrastructure projects to defense communities impacted by realignment or potential realignment of defense worker jobs or United States military facilities. Requires the Military Base Planning Commission to advise defense communities about the availability of the fund.

House Labor, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee - DP; House Appropriations and Finance Committee -DP; House Passed 63-0; Senate Finance Committeereleased; Senate Passed 40-0.



Senator Harold Pope - (D) District: 23 County: Bernalillo





Rep Debra M. Sariñana - (D) District: 21 County: Bernalillo



District: 23 County: Sandoval

PASSED HB 159 **ENERGY PROJECT SITING AND** MILITARY BASES

Representatives Sariñana, A. Martinez; and **Senator Pope**

Requires a developer of a renewable energy facility to advise the Military Base Planning Commission within 30 days of submitting notice of construction or expansion to the FAA, and also within 30 days of receiving approval or finding of adverse impact from the military aviation and installation assurance siting clearinghouse.

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee -DP; House Labor, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee - DP; House Judiciary Committee - DP, House Passed 64-0; Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee – DP; Senate Passed 41-0.







Rep Rebecca Dow - (R) District: 38 County: Doña Ana, Sierra & Socorro



STATE PARK DAY PASSES FOR VETERANS

HB 161

Representatives Dow, A. Martinez, Lujan, Sariñana; Senator Jay Block; 16 more

PASSED

Makes available at no charge one day-use pass and one camping pass to all (not just disabled) veterans for New Mexico State Parks.

House Labor, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee - DP; House Rural Development, Land Grants and Cultural Affairs Committee - DP; House Passed 59-0; Senate Conservation Committee -DP; Senate Passed 39-0. Governor signed.



Rep Debra M. Sariñana - (D) District: 21 County: Bernalillo



Rep Tara L. Lujan - (D) District: 48 County: Santa Fe





HB 245

COMPENSATION FOR VETERANS BENEFITS

Representatives Sariñana, A. Martinez; Senator Brandt

AKA "Claim Shark Bill". Would have enacted in statute that it is a violation of New Mexico consumer protection laws for a person to seek compensation for helping a veteran to obtain a military disability rating, unless that person is accredited by the VA.

House Labor, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee - DP; House Judiciary Committee – died on the calendar.



Rep Alan T. Martinez - (R) Minority Whip District: 23 County: Sandoval



Senator Craig W. Brandt - (R) District: 40 County: Sandoval





Senator Michael Padilla - (D) Majority Whip District: 14 County: Bernalillo

SB 161Image: SB 161BACKGROUND CHECKS FORDEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRSEMPLOYEES

Senators Padilla, Pope

Would have required state and federal background checks for Department of Military Affairs (DMA) employees who have responsibility for youth 18 and younger participating in DMA programs.

Senate Judiciary Committee - DP; Senate Finance Committee - DP; Senate passed 30-0; House Labor, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee - DP; House Judiciary Committee - died on the calendar.



Senator Harold Pope - (D) District: 23 County: Bernalillo





Senator Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics (D) - District: 39 San Miguel, Santa Fe, Torrance & Valencia



Senator Jay C. Block - (R) District: 12 County: Bernalillo & Sandoval





Senator William E. Sharer - (R) District: 1 County: San Juan

SB 273 VETERAN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Senators Stefanics, Sharer, Jay Block; Representative Sariñana; 4 more

Appropriates funding to the Department of Veterans Services for veteran transitional housing.

Senate Indian, Rural and Cultural Affairs - DP; Senate Finance Committee; funded in HB 2.





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Rep Debra M. Sariñana - (D) District: 21 County: Bernalillo



Here are our HEROES

These 28 legislators sponsored Priority Legislation to increase access to Healthcare including Behavioral Healthcare



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HB 11

Rep Christine Chandler - (D) District: 43 County: Los Alamos, Sandoval & Santa Fe



Rep Linda Serrato - (D) District: 45 County: Santa Fe



PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Representatives Chandler, Serrato, Roybal Caballero, J. Martinez; and Senator Stewart

Would have created a fund by which employers would pay employees while on family or medical leave, paralleling the federal FMLA in conditions (including military exigency leave) and adding the benefit of paid leave. Was heavily amended in House Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

House Health and Human Services Committee - DP; House Commerce and Economic Development Committee - DP; House Passed 38-31; Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee - DP; Senate Finance Committee - failed to pass (8 no - 3 yes).



Rep Patricia Roybal Caballero- (D) District: 13 County: Bernalillo

Rep Javier Martínez - (D) Speaker Of The House District: 11 County: Bernalillo







Rep Tara L. Lujan - (D) District: 48 County: Santa Fe



Rep Meredith A. Dixon - (D) District: 20 County: Bernalillo

HB 70 **DIED** BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MEDICAID WAIVER ACT

Representatives T. Lujan, Dixon, Szczepanski, and Hochman-Vigil



Would have required that the Health Care Authority develop an application, apply to the federal centers for Medicare and Medicaid services for authorization to operate a Medicaid waiver program, and operate that program for persons with behavioral health disabilities. Behavioral health disabilities are defined as major mental illness, substance use disorders, disabilities related to traumatic brain injury, and more.

House Health and Human Services Committee - DP; House Appropriations and Finance Committee - DP; House Floor – died on calendar.



Representative Dayan Hochman-Vigil - (D) - Majority Whip District: 15 County: Bernalillo





Rep Reena Szczepanski - (D) Majority Whip District: 47 County: Santa Fe



Rep Yanira Gurrola - (D) District: 16 County: Bernalillo



Rep Marianna Anaya - (D) District: 18 County: Bernalillo

HB 186 **DED** STATE-ADMINISTERED HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN

Representatives Szczepanski, Anaya, Gurrola, Parajón; Senator Jaramillo

AKA "Medicaid Forward". Would have allowed individuals under 65 and with incomes above 133% of the Federal Poverty Level to apply for Medicaid. For some, the benefit would be totally funded while others would pay a small premium.

House Health and Human Services Committee -DP; House Appropriations and Finance Committee – died on calendar.





HB 417 and SB 431 LIQUOR TAX CHANGES & PROGRAMS



HB 417 - Representatives Cadena, Parajón, Ferrary, Thomson; Senators Pinto, Sedillo Lopez SB 431 – Senators Sedillo Lopez, Pinto; Representative Ferrary

AKA "AHA Bill"

Would have caused the liquor excise tax to fund an Alcohol Harms Alleviation Fund and would have applied a liquor excise surtax (sales tax) of 6% to be collected from the retailer (point of sale) to fund a Tribal Alcohol Harms Alleviation Fund. These funds would have been used for education, mitigation and treatment of alcohol use disorders. Would have established both a local alcohol harms alleviation council and a tribal alcohol harms alleviation council to manage the distribution of grant funds according to formulas laid out in the bill. Would have required a review of the taxes and distributions by 2032.

House Health and Human Services Committee - DP; House Taxation and Revenue Committee - DP; Re-referred to House Taxation and Revenue Committee for amendment where it died on a tie vote.





Senator George K. Muñoz - (D) District: 4 County: Cibola, McKinley & San Juan



Senator Pat Woods - (R) District: 7 County: Curry, Harding, Quay & Unio

vetscaucus.org



SB 1 PASSED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRUST FUND

Senators Muñoz, Stefanics, Woods, Jay Block; Representative Hochman-Vigil; 14 more

Will allocate funding to a Behavioral Health Trust Fund, the investment proceeds of which will be used to fund a Behavioral Health Program Fund which will then fund behavioral health initiatives in the state.

Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee - DP; Senate Finance Committee - DP; Senate passed 37-5; House Appropriations and Finance Committee - DP; House Passed 46-19; Governor signed.



Senator Jay C. Block - (R) District: 12 County: Bernalillo & Sandoval





Senator Benny Shendo, Jr. - (D) District: 22 County: Bernalillo, McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan & Sandoval



& San Juar

SB 2 \$ PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY INITIATIVES

Senators Shendo, Muñoz, DM Gallegos, Jay Block; Representative Hochman-Vigil; 16 more

Makes appropriations to fund SB 3.

Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee - DP; Senate Finance Committee - DP; Senate Passed 37-4; House Appropriations and Finance Committee – funding is in HB 2.





Senator Jay C. Block - (R) District: 12 County: Bernalillo & Sandoval







Senator Peter Wirth - (D) Majority Floor Leader District: 25 County: Santa Fe



District: 17 County: Bernalillo

PASSED **SB 3 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFORM & INVESTMENT ACT**

Senators Wirth, Stewart, Sharer, Jay Block; Representative Hochman-Vigil; 13 more

Tasks the Administrative Office of the Courts with creating regional plans to include continuation and expansion of behavioral health services that comply with behavioral health standards established by the Office of Insurance and be held to behavioral health evaluation guidelines established by Legislative Finance Committee.

Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee - DP; Senate Finance Committee - DP; Senate passed 37-5; House Health and Human Services Committee - DP; House Passed as amended 44-23; Senate has concurred with House Health and Human Services Committee amendments; Governor signed.



District: 1 County: San Juan





Representative Dayan Hochman Vigil - (D) - Majority Whip District: 15



County: Doña Ana



Senator Craig W. Brandt - (R) District: 40 County: Sandoval

SB 219 PASSED MEDICAL PSILOCYBIN ACT

Senators Steinborn, Hickey, Brandt; Representatives Thomson, A. Romero; 4 more

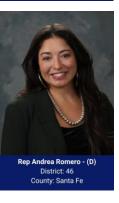
Allows the use of psilocybin in an approved setting to treat certain qualified conditions.

Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee -DP; Senate Judiciary Committee - DP; Senate Finance Committee - DP; Senate Passed 33-4; House Health and Human Services Committee - DP; House Passed 56-8.





Rep Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson - (D District: 24 County: Bernalillo







Here are our HEROES

These 13 legislators sponsored Priority Legislation to provide more Modern and Efficient State Government



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Rep Matthew McQueen - (D District: 50 County: Sandoval and Santa Fe



District: 1 County: San Juan

HJR 1

DIED Session Lengths, Subjects and Overrides, CA This would have been put on the ballot in the next general election, and if passed the constitutional amendment would have become effective.

Representatives McQueen, Montoya, Szczepanski; **Senators Cervantes, Woods**

Would have established two 45-day sessions per legislative biennium, removed the subject restrictions for bills in evennumbered years and allowed for veto overrides within a biennium.

House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee - DP; House Judiciary Committee - DP; House Passed 59-4; Senate Rules Committee – died on calendar.



District: 47 County: Santa Fe



Senator Joseph Cervantes - (D) District: 31 County: Doña Ana & Otero





Senator Natalie Figueroa - (D) District: 18 County: Bernalillo



Senator Peter Wirth - (D Majority Floor Leader

District: 25

County: Santa Fe

Senator Antonio Maestas - (D District: 26 County: Bernalillo

SB 16 PASSED NON-MAJOR PARTY VOTERS IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Senators Figueroa, Wirth, Maestas; Representatives Rubio, Cates, Parajón

Will allow Declined to State (DTS) voters to vote in a major party's primary without re-registering.

Senate Rules Committee - DP; Senate Judiciary Committee - DP; Senate Passed 27-11; House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee - DP; House Judiciary Committee - DP; House Passed 36-33.





Ren Kathleen Cates -

District: 44

County: Bernalillo & Sandoval

Rep Cristina Parajón - (D) District: 25 County: Bernalillo





Rep Joy Garratt - (D) District: 29 County: Bernalillo



Rep Angelica Rubio - (D) District: 35 County: Doña Ana

SJR 1 & HJR 18 COMMISSION ON LEGISLATIVE SALARIES, CA

SJR 1 Senators Figueroa, Wirth, Duhigg; 2 more HJR 18 Representatives Rubio, Garratt

Would have created a commission to recommend legislator's salaries and would have, if approved by the voters, amended the constitution to allow the state to pay legislators' salaries.

SJR 1– Senate Rules Committee - DP; Senate Finance Committee - bill failed on a tie vote. HJR 18 – House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee – died on calendar.



Senator Natalie Figueroa - (D District: 18 County: Bernalillo







Legislation for professional licensure compacts:

Interstate Compacts

Establishing an interstate compact enables an individual licensed in a compact state to practice in another compact state. This is a priority of the Department of Defense State Liaison (DSLO) and is scored by DOD making New Mexico a more desirable state for stationing military personnel and their families and assigning missions to our active military bases.

Ten licensure bills were introduced this year and none passed. These would have benefited military families.

HB 79 & SB 104 Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Compact
Representative Thomson; Senators Sedillo Lopez, Figueroa
HB 81 Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact
Representative Thomson
HB 82 Physical Therapy Licensure Compact
Representative Thomson
HB 110 Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact
Representative Sariñana
HB 217 Counseling Compact
Representative Herndon
HB 242 & SB 106 Psychology Interjurisdictional Act
Representatives A. Martinez, Matthews
HB 243 & SB 46 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
Representative Matthews; Senator Trujillo
HB 413 Physician Assistant Licensure Compact
Representatives Armstrong, Vincent, Jones
HB 441 & SB 433 Dentist & Dental Hygienist Compact
Representatives Armstrong, Thomson, Jones, Dow; Senator Pope
SB 105 Social Work Licensure Compact
Senators Trujillo, Sedillo Lopez; Representative Herndon



Legislation Opposed by VMFC:



Rep John Block - (R) District: 51 County: Otero

HB 460 REPEAL LIQUOR TAXES



OPPOSE

Representative John Block

Would have repealed the liquor excise tax and defunded the county DWI Programs and other programs funded by this tax.

VMFC strongly OPPOSES this bill.

House Health and Human Services Committee - TABLED.





These 49 legislators voted YES 100% of the time on priority legislation benefiting veterans and military families.





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HOUSE CHAMPIONS Representatives

Michelle Paulene Abeyta (D) Marianna Anaya (D) Cynthia Borrego (D) Kathleen Cates (D) Eleanor Chavez (D) Meredith A. Dixon (D) Joanne J. Ferrary (D) Miguel P. García (D)

Joy Garratt (D)
Anita Gonzeles (D)
Joseph Franklin Hernandez (D)
Dayan Hochman-Vigil (D)
Raymundo Lara (D)
Derrick J. Lente (D)
Charlotte Little (D)





HOUSE CHAMPIONS Representatives

Debra M. Sariñana (D) Sarah Silva (D) Nathan P. Small (D) Reena Szczepanski (D) Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson (D) E. Diane Torres-Velasquez (D) Tara L. Lujan (D) Javier J. Martínez (D) Kristina Ortez (D) Cristina Parajón (D) Andrea A. Romero (D) G. Andrés Romero (D) Angelica Rubio (D)





SENATE CHAMPIONS Senators



Heather Berghmans (D) Crystal Brantley (R) Joseph Cervantes (D) Angel M. Charley (D) Katy Duhigg (D) Natalie Figueroa (D) Carrie Hamblen (D) Martin Hickey (D) Leo Jaramillo (D) Linda M. Lopez (D) Cindy Nava (D)

Michael Padilla (D) Shannon D. Pinto (D) Harold Pope (D) Antoinette Sedillo Lopez (D) William P. Soules (D) Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics (D) Jeff Steinborn (D) Mimi Stewart (D) Linda M. Trujillo (D) Peter Wirth (D)





These 37 Legislators scored between 100% and 70% **Not a Champion, but not AWOL**

Rep Pamelya Herndon (D) 93% Rep Patricia Roybal Caballero (D) 92% Sen Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales (D) 92% Rep Joseph Sanchez (D) 91% Sen Jay C. Block (R) 91% 91% Sen Antonio Maestas (D) Sen Gabriel Ramos (R) 91% Sen Benny Shendo (D) 91% Rep Janelle Anyanonu (D) 90% Rep Micaela Lara Cadena (D) 90% Rep Art De La Cruz (D) 90% Rep Yanira Gurrola (D) 90% Rep D. Wonda Johnson (D) 90% Rep Matthew McQueen (D) 90%

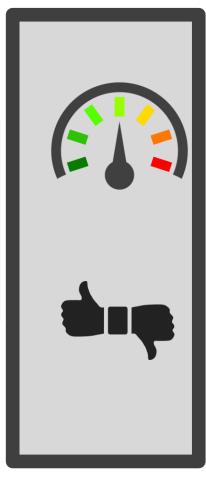
Rep Christine Chandler (D) 89% Rep Doreen Y. Gallegos (D) 89% Rep Martha Garcia (D) 89% Rep Susan K. Herrera (D) 89% Rep Linda Serrato (D) 89% Sen Joshua A. Sanchez (D) 89% Rep Marian Matthews (D) 88% 88% Sen David M. Gallegos (R) Sen Micaelita Debbie O'Malley (D) 88% Sen William E. Sharer (R) 83% Rep Patricia A. Lundstrom (D 82%) 82% Sen Craig W. Brandt (R) Sen Pete Campos (D) 82% 82% Sen Nicholas A. Paul (R)





These 37 Legislators scored between 100% and 70% Not a Champion, but not AWOL

Rep Catherine J. Cullen (R)	78%
Sen Steve D. Lanier (R)	75%
Sen George K. Munoz (D)	75%
Sen Nicole Tobiassen (R)	75%
Rep Joshua N. Hernandez (R)	73%
Rep Brian G. Baca (R)	70%
Rep Jack Chatfield (R)	70%
Rep Tanya Mirabal Moya (R)	70%
Rep Luis M. Terrazas (R)	70%





AWOL

26 legislators voted for VMF Priority Bills less than 70% of the time.



Rep William A. Hall II (R)	67%
Sen Pat Boone (R)	67%
Sen Anthony L. Thornton (R)	67%
Rep Nicole Chavez (D)	64%
Rep Andrea Reeb (R)	64%
Sen Pat Woods (R)	64%
Rep Gail Armstrong (R)	60%
Rep Harlan Vincent (R)	60%
Rep Martin R. Zamora (R)	60%
Sen Larry R. Scott (R)	60%
Rep Mark Duncan (R)	58%
Rep Cathrynn N. Brown (R)	56%
Rep Jimmy G. Mason (R)	56%





AWOL

26 legislators voted for VMF Priority Bills less than 70% of the time.



Rep Rebecca Dow (R)	50%
Rep Stefani Lord (R)	50%
Rep Angelita Mejia (R)	50%
Sen Candy Spence Ezzell (R)	50%
Rep Jonathan A. Henry (R)	45%
Rep Jenifer Jones (R)	45%
Rep Rod Montoya (R)	45%
Rep Mark B. Murphy (R)	44%
Rep Alan T. A. Martinez (R)	38%
Rep John Block (R)	38%
Rep Elaine Sena Cortez (R)	36%
Sen James G. Townsend (R)	33%
Rep Randall T. Pettigrew (R)	30%







OUR MISSION

The Veterans and Military Families Caucus champions the interests of our veterans and their families and advocates to ensure the benefits they have earned in service to our nation are protected.

Our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to honor all of our veterans and wounded warriors.

The Caucus works to bring more veterans with aligned values into the Democratic Party of New Mexico and to ensure the Democratic Party of New Mexico carries out its responsibility to support issues specific to veterans and their families.



New **Mexico** Veterans and Military Families Caucus

Thank you, Legislators!





New **Mexico Veterans** and **Military Families** Caucus