



NEW MEXICO
Early Childhood
Education & Care Department

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2023

ECECD Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky to testify before U.S. Senate HELP Committee on New Mexico's child care innovations

WASHINGTON, DC – On Wednesday, May 31 at 8:00 a.m. MST Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky of the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) will join U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders during the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee for a hearing titled, “Solving the Child Care Crisis: Meeting the Needs of Working Families and Child Care Workers.”

Sen. Sanders invited Secretary Groginsky to testify about New Mexico’s use of federal emergency relief funding during the COVID-19 pandemic to make remarkable progress towards improving child care access and affordability for families, quality early learning environments for young children, and better wages and credentials for early childhood professionals.

During her testimony, Sec. Groginsky will provide an overview of many of the innovations that have made New Mexico a national leader in early childhood policy, including:

- The most expansive child care assistance program in the nation, making most NM families eligible for free child care
- Historic wage increases for early childhood educators
- New Mexico becoming the first state in the nation to use a cost model to set child care subsidy rates, helping fix the broken child care market
- New Mexico’s successful stabilization of the child care industry during the COVID-19 crisis

WHO:

ECECD Cabinet Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky

Senator Bernie Sanders (I - VT), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, members of the committee

WHAT:

Hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to consider "Solving the Child Care Crisis: Meeting the Needs of Working Families and Child Care Workers."

WHEN:

Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

WHERE:

In-Person

Room 403, Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

Virtual

Live streaming is available on the HELP Committee's [website](#) and Sen. Bernie Sanders' social media [pages](#).