



Office of the Governor

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Lujan Grisham signs executive order expanding access to reproductive health access in New Mexico

SANTA FE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Wednesday signed an executive order further expanding access to reproductive health care in the state of New Mexico, continuing to build on her efforts as governor to increase access to affordable health care, safeguard abortion access, and protect New Mexico health care providers.

The executive order designates \$10 million of the governor’s capital outlay funds for the development of a reproductive health care clinic in Doña Ana County, aimed at fortifying and expanding New Mexicans’ access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care, including regular preventative care, family planning, prenatal care, labor and delivery, postpartum care and support, lactation counseling and support, abortion, and appropriate medical management of miscarriage and pregnancy loss.

The executive order also directs the Department of Health to develop a detailed plan to leverage resources to expand abortion access in rural and underserved parts of the state, work to make abortion medications available in state public health clinics, and to reduce wait times and increase access statewide. Finally, the order directs the Human Services Department to implement policies that improve that efficiency and sustainability of reproductive health care access in New Mexico.

"As more states move to restrict and prohibit access to reproductive care, New Mexico will continue to not only protect access to abortion, but to expand and strengthen reproductive health care throughout the state," said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. "Today, I reaffirm my resolve to make sure that women and families in New Mexico – and beyond – are supported at every step of the way."

The governor signed the executive order alongside the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women and state legislators.

"The New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to working to ensure the success, advancement, health, and equity of all New Mexican women," said commission chairwoman **Lisa Curtis**. "The Commission’s work will continue with a focus on protecting

access to safe abortion care, protecting health care providers, and expanding access to health care for the full spectrum of pregnancy care, with an emphasis on rural New Mexico. We are grateful to Gov. Lujan Grisham for resurrecting this important group and look forward to providing additional strategies for accomplishing increased availability of health care.”

“The southern part of New Mexico has lacked access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare for generations. Directing money to help our southern New Mexico families is critical for patient care,” said **Kayla Herring**, Director of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains. “Expanding access to abortion care is expanding access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare.”

“Thank you to Gov. Lujan Grisham and the Commission on the Status of Women for your leadership to protect a person's right to access abortion care that is an essential part of reproductive health. New Mexico is committed to make sure that abortion care is safe and accessible in all areas of our state,” said **Sen. Linda Lopez**. “Legislators are working with those on the front lines providing services, the Governor's staff and the Commission to develop necessary legislation for the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session to make sure that a person's dignity and autonomy are preserved in statute.”

“Our governor is a public health champion who understands that abortion care is health care,” said **Rep. Joanne Ferrary**. “We want to thank her for allocating money to southern New Mexico, which has great need for these services.”

The executive order signed today builds on past action by Gov. Lujan Grisham to protect reproductive rights and support the rights of New Mexicans to make their own decisions without government interference. In 2021, Gov. Lujan Grisham enacted legislation sponsored by Sen. Lopez and Rep. Ferrary that repealed an antiquated state law that would have criminalized abortion providers upon the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, ensuring continued abortion access throughout New Mexico and safeguarding the right of every New Mexican to make critical decisions about their own health and to decide for themselves and their families when to have children. In June, the governor signed an executive order that further safeguards access to reproductive health care and supports abortion providers in New Mexico, protecting medical providers from attempts at legal retribution and establishing that New Mexico will not entertain extradition attempts from other states related to receiving or providing reproductive services.

The executive order is attached to this release.

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State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2022-123

EXPANDING ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

WHEREAS, the right to reproductive health care services is essential to a woman's autonomy, dignity, and equality in our society;

WHEREAS, New Mexicans deserve access to the respect, information, and resources they need to make their own personal healthcare decisions and decide what is best for themselves and their families;

WHEREAS, New Mexicans need and deserve access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, including family planning, prenatal care, labor and delivery, postpartum care and support, lactation counseling and support, abortion, and appropriate medical management of miscarriage and pregnancy loss;

WHEREAS, abortion is an essential part of reproductive healthcare and must remain legal, safe, and accessible;

WHEREAS, New Mexico has recently implemented additional measures to protect reproductive rights and access to reproductive health care services such as repealing an antiquated state statute criminalizing abortion;

WHEREAS, I have also issued Executive Order 2022-107 to protect access to reproductive health care services in New Mexico;

WHEREAS, unfortunately, many of our neighboring states have adopted laws that drastically limit or prohibit access to abortion and other reproductive health care services following

the United States Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned almost 50 years of precedent regarding the federal right to reproductive health care services;

WHEREAS, these efforts to restrict access to reproductive health care services from other States may lead more individuals to seek services from New Mexico health care providers;

WHEREAS, we remain steadfast in our values and are proud of New Mexico's commitment to ensure that this healthcare remains safe and legal for all people; at the same time, we must work to protect and expand the availability of these services to address the demands on our system and ensure that our communities continue to have access to the care they need;

WHEREAS, many communities in our State do not currently have adequate access to reproductive health care services; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is committed to expanding access to these services.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. The Department of Finance and Administration shall designate \$10 million of the Executive's capital allocation for the upcoming 2023 legislative session for the purpose of developing a new clinic that provides a full spectrum of patient-centered, community-informed reproductive healthcare, including abortion, in Dona Ana County;

2. The Department of Health shall:

a. develop a detailed plan to leverage State resources to expand access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion, in underserved areas of the State;

b. assess the feasibility of the provision of medication abortion in public health

clinics overseen by the Department; and

c. review and evaluate the effectiveness of actions taken or being considered by other states to increase access to abortion and decrease wait times.

3. The Human Services Department shall, as soon as practicable, develop policies and take action to improve the efficiency and sustainability of access to reproductive health services.

I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT as follows:

1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until renewed, modified, or rescinded.

ATTEST:


MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 31ST DAY OF AUGUST 2022

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO


MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

