



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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### **Governor Bill Richardson to meet with disability groups**

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson will meet with members of disability groups about concerns related to changes in the Personal Care Option services.

Governor Richardson supports PCO and has protected the services. In May 2003 the Governor stopped cuts in service hours, which was directed by the Legislative Finance Committee in the summer of 2002. "The PCO allows disabled adults to remain in their communities and it helps local economies," said Governor Richardson.

The Governor directed the Human Services Department to create a PCO committee to explore and find solutions to keep the services, which were growing at 33%, yet contain costs. Those cost-containment efforts were to bring oversight and consistency in how the services are provided to about 9,000 disabled adults and seniors. Many of the changes that are helping keep the services in New Mexico came from recommendations from the PCO committee, which consisted of PCO providers, service recipients and advocates.

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