



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

For immediate release  
January 15, 2007

Contact: Jon Goldstein  
(Santa Fe) 505.476.2248

## **Governor Richardson Announces Far Reaching Agenda to Combat Substance Abuse and Meth**

### *Governor Joins Congressman Steve Pearce in Supporting "Clean Town" Registry*

(Santa Fe, NM) – Governor Bill Richardson today announced a far reaching package of proposals to combat substance abuse in New Mexico through law enforcement and treatment funding. This includes support for a New Mexico version of Congressman Steve Pearce's "Clean Town" legislation to create a registry of convicted felony drug dealers, and more than \$20 million in substance abuse prevention and treatment funding.

"Substance abuse corrodes the fabric of our families and our communities. It contributes to the cycle of poverty, imperils health and prevents New Mexico from realizing its full economic and social potential," said Governor Richardson. "The initiatives announced today by myself and Congressman Pearce will help keep New Mexicans safe from meth and other illegal substances."

The Governor's plan includes:

- A New Mexico Clean Town Act to create a registry of convicted felony drug dealers in New Mexico. This registry will be available to local, state and federal law enforcement authorities as well as to members of the public who want information on convicted drug dealers and traffickers in their area. Congressman Pearce introduced a Clean Town bill in Congress last fall to create a federal registry of convicted drug dealers and to give law enforcement a strong tool in the fight against illegal drug manufacturing and distribution.

“I fully support Congressman Pearce’s efforts. In fact, I am announcing today that I will propose a state version modeled after the Congressman’s federal legislation during the upcoming legislative session,” said Governor Richardson.

- A registry of meth impacted properties in New Mexico. Meth labs -- where the chemicals used to “cook” meth are combined -- leave a toxic legacy that can be harmful to future residents, especially children. This registry will allow home buyers to know if their house has been the site of a meth lab, and state environmental officials will develop remediation standards to certify that these impacted properties are fully cleaned up.
- More than \$28 million in behavioral health program funding, services and facilities. The vast majority of this funding – more than \$20 million – is specifically focused on treating substance abuse.
  - This package will include \$8 million for the “Total Community Approach” -- teaming with local municipalities and targeting resources to the areas where they are most needed to deal with substance abuse and behavioral health challenges. Depending upon the community, some substances are more prevalent than others. This includes alcohol, heroin, cocaine, marijuana and, in increasingly alarming numbers, methamphetamine.
  - This approach has been successfully implemented in San Juan County and the Governor’s \$8 million plan includes \$2 million in recurring funding to keep that program going while also expanding it to other communities.
  - \$9 million - \$7 million in capital and \$2 million in recurring operational funds – to develop a substance abuse treatment and training center at the former Los Lunas state residential facility. Capital funding will be used to build a 16 to 28 bed treatment center and a state-of-the-art, community-based outpatient program through a public/private partnership.
  - \$500,000 for the New Mexico Department of Health for public education efforts that promote substance abuse prevention targeted at young people around the state.

“Law enforcement plays a big role in our fight against illegal drugs, and these registries will help protect the public. However, a successful package must be more than one dimensional, we must also invest in treatment for people who wish to reclaim their lives and become productive members of society,” said Governor Richardson. “By teaming up – law enforcement and treatment providers, as well as state, federal and local officials – we can have a real impact on the problem of illegal drugs.”

###