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## **Governor Bill Richardson Reacts to Special Session Results**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson characterized the special session as a good, solid, yet modest effort that helps New Mexico families.

“The winners are kids, working families and our most vulnerable citizens,” Governor Richardson said. “While the Legislature did not go as far as I would have liked to cover all children with health insurance, I believe modest, but solid gains were made toward that goal.

“I am particularly pleased that legislators agreed to provide permanent tax relief for working New Mexico families. These tax credits, on top of the modest rebates, additional child care assistance and funding for home-heating, will provide much-needed relief for working families.

“I appreciate the hard work and leadership from Majority Leader Michael Sanchez and Speaker Ben Lujan during this special session,” Governor Richardson said.

The Governor outlined five priorities for the Legislature to consider in the special session that started on Friday. The Legislators made progress on all five issues.

### 1. Health Care Reform

- **\$20 million** to help cover kids through age 18
- **\$10 million** to treat developmentally disabled children
- **\$2.5 million** for mental health services

### 2. CARE package

- Cost-of-living tax rebate -- \$55.8 million
- Working Families Tax Credit -- \$7.8 million
- Increase child care assistance eligibility -- \$7.2 million
- Home heating assistance -- \$1.9 million
- School bus fuel assistance -- \$3.2 million

### 3. Highway projects

- Complete most GRIP road projects -- \$200 million

4. Emergency money for floods in Ruidoso and Otero County
  - Bridge and road repair -- \$5million
5. Emergency money for 2008 election
  - Anticipated additional expenses for November General Election -- \$1.6 million