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**For Immediate Release**

## **Coverage of Domestic Partners Legislation Gets Committee Approval**

### **Bill Part of Governor Richardson's Health Reform Agenda**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – A Senate Committee has approved one piece of legislation that is part of the Governor's Health Reform Agenda moving through the Legislature.

The Senate Public Affairs Committee yesterday gave a "do pass" to **Senate Bill 439, Coverage of Domestic Partners**, sponsored by Senator Peter Wirth. This Insurance Reform bill requires private commercial insurance carriers to offer health insurance coverage for those small employers who elect to offer this coverage for the domestic partners of their full- and part-time employees.

SB 439 now heads to the Senate Judiciary Committee for approval.

The Governor's package of 10 Health Care Reform bills focus on Electronic Medical Records, Consolidation of Public Coverage Programs, and Insurance Reform to increase access to coverage and quality health care for all New Mexicans.

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