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For Immediate Release

Three of Governor Richardson's Health Care Reform Bills Get House Committee Approval

Santa Fe, New Mexico – Today the House Health and Government Affairs Committee approved three of Governor Richardson's Health Care Reform bills that focus on Insurance Reform.

- **House Bill 109, Employer Pre-Tax Health Coverage Options** – Requires employers to offer IRS Section 125 pre-tax plans to interested employees not otherwise offered coverage, to hold down the cost of health coverage for these employees.
- **House Bill 110, Health Insurance Guaranteed Issue** – Requires insurance companies to offer coverage to any individual who requests it, without exclusion of pre-existing conditions, and eliminates gender as a premium rating factor.
- **House Bill 111 as amended, Health Insurer Direct Services Reimbursement** - Requires a health insurer to spend at least 85 percent of the amount it collects in premiums for coverage across all health product lines over a three-year period.

All three bills are sponsored by Representative John Heaton. HB 109 now heads to the House Taxation and Revenue Committee, while HB 110 and HB 111 go to the House Business and Industry 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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