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Contact: Gilbert Gallegos  
505-476-2217

## **Governor Bill Richardson Hopeful for Federal Medicaid Funding**

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson said today that he is hopeful that Congress will pass additional Medicaid funding following a decisive vote in the U.S. Senate that allows the legislation to move forward.

Today's procedural vote could lead to a vote as soon as tomorrow on the legislation, which would send an additional \$16 billion in Medicaid funding to help states avoid cutting health services to the most vulnerable citizens.

"This money is critical to help reduce drastic cuts to the Medicaid program," Governor Richardson said. "I especially want to acknowledge Senator Bingaman's key role in moving this funding forward. I'm hopeful for a positive vote by the full Senate and quick action by the House so we can protect Medicaid services in New Mexico."