



## **New Mexico State Senate Confirms Brent Earnest as Secretary of New Mexico Human Services Department**

**SANTA FE** – The New Mexico State Senate today confirmed Brent Earnest as Secretary of the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD). The Senate confirmed Secretary Earnest by a vote of 38-0. Governor Susana Martinez selected Earnest as her choice for Cabinet Secretary in December 2013. Previously he served as Deputy Secretary of HSD from March 2011-December 2014.

“I am humbled to have received the trust of Governor Martinez to oversee the Human Services Department,” said HSD Secretary Brent Earnest. “We have a large task ahead in managing a nearly \$6 billion budget, providing assistance to nearly 800,000 New Mexicans, and continuing to reform our public assistance programs to make them more efficient and accessible to people throughout the state. But I am confident that we can continue the excellent work that has been done over the past four years under Governor Martinez to serve those most in need.”

Secretary Earnest received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of New Mexico. He received his Master of Public Management degree from the University of Maryland.

Prior to his service at HSD, Earnest spent almost six years as a Senior Fiscal Analyst for the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, where his responsibilities included appropriation recommendations to the legislator for the State’s budget. He was also a Senior Program Associate with the Brookings Institution and was also a Legislative Aide to Senator Jeff Bingaman, both in Washington, DC.

Earnest and his wife Kate reside in Santa Fe with their two children.

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