



New Mexico  
Hospital Association

## 2009 Legislative Agenda

### WORKFORCE

#### Nursing Priorities

Background: NMHA has collaborated with NM Center for Nursing Excellence and related stakeholders to develop a set of legislative initiatives to support nursing (see attached detail). The elements include:

- Maintain current funding for Nursing Loan for Service Program (\$300,000).
- Maintain current funding for the Nurse Educator Loan for Service Program (\$50,000).
- Request a tax credit for nursing educators.
- Request a memorial to explore nursing faculty salary issues by looking at reclassification of nursing programs within the funding formula and/or other strategies to enhance nurse faculty salaries. The disparity of nurse faculty salaries to the salaries of their community colleagues is a major recruitment/retention barrier for nurse educators.
- Support HED's proposed legislative language change that would allow HED to use up to 3% of the nursing education expansion grant funds to administer the program. HED plans to use these funds to hire a nursing/health professions policy administrator.

*NMHA Position: **Support** the collaborative nursing initiatives.*