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**HB206, the Utility Affordability and Relief Act, will be heard on the House floor as early as tomorrow!**

This critical piece of legislation, sponsored by Reps. Ortez, Romero, Ferrary, and Rubio, aims to help thousands of New Mexico families who have fallen behind on their utility bills during the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill is headed to the full House of Representatives any time now. **We need help reaching legislators to encourage them to support this bill!**

Tens of thousands of New Mexico families face disconnection from electricity, gas and water services. HB 206 not only takes steps to protect these families from immediate disconnection, but it also provides long-term solutions related to energy affordability in our state. The following provisions are in the bill, including:

- **Providing immediate protections** including prohibiting disconnections for low-income and otherwise needy customers, requiring utilities to seek federal funding and leverage other funds and contributions to help customers, directing utilities to provide payment plans and upon completion of the payment plan, offering these customers a partial forgiveness of arrears that can be recovered by utilities in future rate cases.
- **Providing long-term solutions related to energy affordability** including mechanisms to increase energy efficiency

Development Block Grant program that would fund energy efficiency projects and programs throughout our state.

This legislation will be heard any time now on the floor of the N.M. House. **Please tell your own representative how important this bill is and ask them to support it.**

Many of you already know how to contact your representative, but if you don't, there are instructions below OR you can use [this click-through action](#) and fill out your info. This is easy and quick, but personal notes and calls are always best. Need to find your representative? Enter your address at [this link](#). Once you have identified your rep, reach out to them via phone and/or email. Identify yourself as a constituent and very briefly tell them (or whoever answers the phone if it's an office assistant) why you urge your representative to support the Utility Affordability and Relief Act.

Questions? Call Tammy Fiebelkorn at 505-410-3884 or Amy Miller at 505-269-0287.

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This is a critically important protection against a wave of homelessness as well loss of utilities, once the utility and rent moratoriums expire.

If you haven't seen the Eviction Lab website and NM's "Scorecard" , its worth a look. <https://evictionlab.org/covid-policy-scorecard/nm/>

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