

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parental rights move to forefront as families prepare for back to school

ALBUQUERQUE – New Mexico House Republicans today announce a free to download and print Parental Notification and Consent form. The Parental Notification and Consent form is made available to the public following the enactment of several state laws that require and encourage government bureaucrats to withhold notification and involvement of parents of minor-aged students engaged in major lifechanging medical and sexual discussions and decisions.

“The core issue here is the rollback of parental involvement by this government, the same government that has failed so many children at CYFD and continues to reign worst in the country for child welfare,” **said State Rep. Luis Terrazas (R-Silver City)**. “Ask any parent- their entire lives revolve around their children. You simply cannot replace a parent or guardian with a government employee or policy. This simple one-page form gives parents back their voice that has been severely undercut in the recent months. People across this state have been calling for action, and we are delivering a commonsense option for parents to remain informed and push back against this violation of their rights.”

Much debate in the 2023 Legislative Session centered on a series of progressive bills designed to insert transgender and pro-abortion ideology in New Mexico Schools. Several amendments and debates attempted to amend language to require the transgender and pro-abortion proposals be limited to children aged 15 and over, however most Democrats ignored or shut down the debate.

Rep. Terrazas continued, “I cannot imagine a person or school official that would willfully disregard a parents request to be notified. I fully expect the schools and districts to honor those parents who fill out the forms. While I recognize that some schools and some districts may have policies that do not require notification, the letter and form that is being releasing today makes it clear for those who wish to participate, parents’ rights are paramount and must be respected, even if local policy says otherwise. I believe the success of our children comes from the strength of our families, not micromanagement from the government.”

The free Parental Notification and Consent form can be found at nmhrcc.org/parentpower. A copy of the letter is attached to this release.



Dear Parent,

New Mexico laws passed during the 2023 session (HB 7 and SB 397) could restrict both parental involvement regarding certain types of medical services and instructional materials provided to minors during the school day, regardless of age. Medical services include: “Gender affirming care,” psychiatric care, and abortion services.

The following form is designed to help parents/guardians explicitly exercise their right to be fully informed prior to their child accessing medical and behavioral health services, or some instructional materials. HB7 and SB397 can be found by clicking the links below.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Legislation?Chamber=H&LegType=B&LegNo=7&year=23>

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Legislation?Chamber=S&LegType=B&LegNo=397&year=23>

Parents/guardians are responsible for making educational and health care decisions for their children until they reach the age of majority. A minor child cannot consent to his/her own educational decisions or medical treatment. It is important for parents/guardians to remain engaged and informed with school district staff to ensure their children are receiving the appropriate education and health care.

Parent/guardian engagement ensures the highest standard of care.

Attached is the PARENTAL/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION/CONSENT SCHOOL FORM

1. Carefully read and mark each check box for which you are requiring notification before your child participates in activities that may be occurring on the school campus.
2. Sign the notification form.
3. Make two copies of the signed form.
4. Keep one copy for your personal records.
5. Email one copy to your child’s school admin office, requesting that a copy be placed in their permanent record with the school district.

Please note that current New Mexico law, NMSA 32A-6A-15 provides for a child 14 years of age or older to consent to certain behavioral and family therapy and counseling programs. However, 32A-6A-15(C) states “A clinician or other mental health and developmental disabilities professional shall promote the healthy involvement of a child’s legal custodians and family members in developing the child’s treatment plan, including appropriate treatment for children fourteen years of age or older.”

Sincerely,

NM House Republican Leadership

NEW MEXICO PARENTAL/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION/CONSENT SCHOOL FORM

I/We, _____ legal parent(s)/guardian(s) of,
_____: (Check all that apply.)

Require prior notification before my child participates in, or is given access to, any health care services, referral for services, class, lesson, instruction, curriculum, assembly, guest speaker, activity, assignment, library material, online material, club, group, or association concerning **transgender ideology, gender affirming care or gender identity**.

Require prior notification before my child participates in, or is given access to, any health care services, referral for services class, lesson, instruction, curriculum, assembly, guest speaker, activity, assignment, library material, online material, club, group, or association concerning **abortion**.

Require prior notification before my child participates in, or is given access to, any health care services, referral for services, class, lesson, instruction, curriculum, assembly, guest speaker, activity, assignment, library material, online material, club, group, or association concerning **contraception** and other family planning.

Require prior notification before my child participates in, or be given access to, any health care services, referral for services, or association concerning **primary health care**.

Require prior notification before my child participates in, or be given access to, any health care services, referral for services, or association concerning **mental or psychiatric care**.

If I am not given prior notification and the ability to make an informed decision concerning the wellbeing of my child, I withhold consent for the items checked above.

Printed Name Signature Date

Printed Name Signature Date

Please also note that any parental notification does not prevent the mandatory disclosure of certain circumstances to law enforcement or the Children, Youth, and Families Department as required by law.

