

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Water

- Division to manage water, set up as an economic development issue.
- None of the conservation committees will hear.
- Sent through the Senate. Article in paper today. How did it get through the house? How did it get sent to economic development?

General Comments about the Legislature

- Rachel comments - very little leg will pass. R's are filibustering using the full 3 hours.
- If it's not on the floor at this point will not be passed. If no leadership support from the Gov., won't get through.

Is there an appropriation without a bill? How it can be used? Yes, someone has to be authorized to spend it.

Affirmative consent passed the house. Ensures that everyone in our higher education understands clear affirmation. Victims will have access to services.

Marcela Diaz, Somos Unidos

- Grassroots organizer. She keeps a lot of powerful people engaged in supporting Somos. Sophisticated strategies - like what to do with criminal justice. They dig into workforce development.
- Immigrant-based economic justice.

Phase 1 - community education about employment rights. Making sure city county and state enforces rules and regulations. These are the most vulnerable people in our workforce.

Phase 2 - raising the floor. Trying to get more for these immigrants. A living wage for Santa Fe is between \$25 and \$35. We don't think we are ever going to establish this

Phase 3 - what does it take to offer access for things?

- The Gateways for Growth Program - year-long, survey 120 workers and other stakeholders who want to be in growth sectors - hotel, construction, child care,
- Eco-development departments here in Santa Fe for small businesses. This is great but it's a narrow approach. Most of their members don't want to start a business.
- They have a workforce development plan. Based in the community. The best solutions come from those who live in the community.
- Other work: Permian basin. If we are going to promote a just transition away from oil gas, we need to build up skills. Ensure there is a WF development - what is it that you would like to see in your community?
- Just published a report, UM for Social Policy for people in the Permian basin. There is a shortage of oil industry workers. Kills building. Starting with women and youth because a lot of me are still in the businesses.
- They are funded by Fed \$ - no support services are avail for undocumented. But the Permian Basin. They are immigrants. We need these people \$26M they get. WF keeps about \$15m. Title 1 and 2 \$. Rest gets distributed to the 4 workforce boards. Would like to have flexibility for undocumented.
- Legislative to get flexibility for \$ those who do not qualify or are undocumented. These funds are siloed. Flexible State Funding.
- Title 2 - through the state. \$5M from state and fed. Working with House Appro to fill these gaps.
- \$60M just passed in the house. \$20 a year for 3. For career and education. Apprentices programs.
- Money for over-employed workers too.

- Gaps? What do they need to plug?
- In Carlsbad NM there is a robust CC program. They have a 100-person ESL program. Their director is meeting the needs of people in the community. Late aft and evening programs.

Discussion

- What % are eligible to apply for the exam for citizenship?
 - NM - 1 in 10 is foreign born. We make up 13% of WF. And young - between 25 and 50. One of the highest median ages in country (NM).
 - 200K immigrants. About a 1/3 are undocumented. Other 1/3 are lawful immigrants - DACA. And others. Last 1/3 are naturalized citizens.
 - Barriers - aren't a lot of legal support. Not enough rural attorneys. Great programs for cities. SOMOS developed its citizenship program. Takes lawyers out of the equality.
 - Cost - expensive. Lack of information - over 55 could take citizenship and could take the interview in Spanish. Spanish /English programs.
 - Do they work with Catholic Charities - not so much here in Santa Fe. People can do their own applications.
- Good reform - legalization with a path to citizenship. This won't happen for the next 10 years. Their focus is not on the border.
- How to answer the question of immigrants invading our border?
- Discussions about how Vasquez voted for 4 anti-immiegrat bills. Other two did not. There were so may proposals - further criminalize everyone who uses fraudulent SS card.
- He talks about how progressive he is. He took a really right wing ugly vote. What is the message to other immigrants?
- DACA - what is the status? Now - people not able to apply for the first time but people can apply to re-apply.
- Problems come back to demography is our Destiney and ability to use good govt. Govt can't hire enough people to do what they need to do. Govt agencies at 20 30 40 % vacancies. There doesn't seem to be public attention on the non-participation of the workforce.
- That's the narrative for Somos on this session. Bringing for the overworked or the challenged workers who have
- Dept of Workforce Solutions: 35K open positions across the board for workforce. We need to have a robust on-ramp. Immigrants are the only workers who are coming to legis asking for more jobs.
- What are you organizing for leading up to the next sessions?
 - 2 things: Support some of the structural changes. They are the only ones trying to get \$ for workforce development.
 - Legis say the boards are not functional.
 - Also working on expanding unemployment benefits. How to expand for low-wage workers for self-employed like child care, etc.
 - Undoc doesn't have access to in-state schools unless they went to school here in NM for in state tuition.
 - Asking to be shared on their correspondence to Gabe. Bill #s - Concerned that he ignored this hurts and will move the party to the right. We don't want to bring that much notice. Write notes to him saying these were the wrong votes. --