Campaign for Patient Rights (CPR): Strengthening the New Mexico Medical Board
Protecting Patients. Supporting Physicians. Restoring Public Trust.

Why Medical Board Reform?
The New Mexico Medical Board is a critical safeguard for patients and medical professionals, responsible for investigating complaints, addressing unsafe practices, and protecting the public. Yet, Public Citizen ranked New Mexico 34th nationally in serious physician disciplinary actions, raising concerns about the effectiveness of medical oversight and transparency.[1]

Established by the Legislature to protect New Mexicans from unsafe and unprofessional medical practices, the Board needs the resources, authority, and oversight necessary to fulfill its mission. This includes identifying and supporting healthcare providers facing mental health or substance use challenges before problems escalate into harm.

Why Now?
The Legislature has made historic investments to expand healthcare access and recruit more providers. Ensuring access to healthcare must also mean access to safe, quality care. As corporate interests gain greater influence over healthcare delivery, profit driven pressures can undermine patient safety and physician well-being. Strengthening the NM Medical Board's capacity, transparency, and accountability is essential to protecting patients, supporting physicians, and ensuring public trust keeps pace with the Legislature's healthcare investments.

Four Priorities for Medical Board Reform in New Mexico

1. Transparency: Give New Mexicans access to the information they deserve. Patients should have access to clear, reliable, easy to understand information to make informed decisions about their healthcare.
2. Fairness and Accountability: Establish a strong oversight system that treats complaints seriously while protecting due process for medical professionals. Ensure meaningful follow up occurs with impacted patients and medical professionals.
3. Prevention and Patient Safety: Proactively identify patterns, require continuous monitoring, strengthening reporting requirements, and prioritize timely investigations.
4. Provider Well-being & Early Intervention: Identify and support providers who show signs of burnout, impairment or other challenges that may affect safe patient care. Encourage a culture where seeking help is supported while maintaining accountability.
5. Effective Oversight: Give the Board the tools to succeed. Increase meaningful public representation, ensure adequate budgets, leadership, staffing, investigative capacity, legal resources, and establish legislative reviews to assess effectiveness.