

1. Your name and district number:

Stephanie L. DuBois senate dist. 33

2. The overall goals of welfare reform are to move people from welfare to work, reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy and encourage healthy marriages and family formation. TANF allows funds to be spent for marriage and couple relationship education, responsible fatherhood programs, financial education, and parenting programs. What benefits do you see for allocating 1-2% of the TANF budget in New Mexico for services to strengthen families?

The TANF is welfare I don't think because some teenage girl is pregnant she should get assistance and be put on Medicaid health insurance. I don't think adding more money will help the people on this self-sufficient and productive citizens. I don't see any benefit for either people you are trying to help or the taxpayer that is footing the bills

3. Research has consistently shown that the social, educational, health and economic outcomes of children in healthy, two-parent families are better than those living in single-parent households. New Mexico has among the highest rates in the nation for teen pregnancies, school drop-outs, juvenile crimes and women and children living in poverty. New Mexico spends \$225 million every year dealing with the outcomes of families in crisis. If you are elected, what would you do to strengthen families?

We have the highest numbers of teen pregnancies because we want to teach abstinence only. It is not working. We need comprehensive sex education and not just for the girls. Being a single parent is not totally a bad thing but when you are only 15 years old and the father takes no responsibility for the child he produced. It makes for a really bad situation. That same father will move on and make another girl pregnant and another and so on. Education is the key to breaking the poverty cycle. I don't think forcing a young man or woman to have a two parent household because it is better for the children. Particularly if the father is abusive. The children then would be better off with the parent that is trying to make a go of it. If this Governor decides not to expand Medicaid under the affordable care act. What will be the solution then? Students should just be able to drop out. If they want to drop out the boys should have to go to a trade school and the girls need to learn some sort of skill that will make them self sufficient and not fall into the habit of thinking the "Government" will pay for it. We are the Government and that thinking has to stop.

4. The percentage of children in poverty in New Mexico is 26% higher than the national average. There are many factors contributing to this phenomenon including the fact that 45% of infants in New Mexico are born to teen parents. If you are elected, how would you reduce the number of teen pregnancies in New Mexico?

Education, Education and Education. They, both the boy and the girl need to understand that unprotected sex makes a baby. Again, I would sponsor a bill calling for comprehensive Sex education, age appropriate. Without interference by the church and with or without the parents consent

5. Studies show that couple relationship education (e.g., conflict resolution, communication skills, understanding of gender differences, etc.) results in happier and healthier marriages. What programs and services are available to couples and families in your district?

We don't have Planned Parenthood here anymore. I guess mostly the Churches, The Health Department. There is a right wing outfit that "helps" pregnant girls keep their babies. Other than those I don't really know

6. How can the NM Coalition for Healthy Families help you strengthen families in New Mexico?

Again, Education of the general public about making healthier families and education for those you are trying to aid

7. Do you have any additional ideas or comments regarding New Mexico's families?

I really do not understand that a state that became a state in 1912 and was a poor state and in 2012, 100 years later, we are still poor, we are last in everything and especially how we treat our children. We are 49th out of 50 states. I think it is a generational poverty mindset that says, I am poor, I live in a poor community and there is no hope for me. So I will always be poor and that is what it is. Corruption in our government. state, county and local seems to play a role in keeping the poor, poor and uneducated in order to keep control of power. And our state seems to elect and re-elect those politicians that will maintain the status quo because it benefits them and their families