

1. Your name and district number:

Stephen Easley HD 50

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?

Any money for services that we can provide that will strengthen families is money well spent.

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 must improve education, beginning with pre-K and K-3 intervention. We must increase the probability of parents having adequate employment through workforce training and development. And finally we must increase family planning education and awareness in our schools.

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?

We must increase family planning education and awareness in our schools.

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?

Far too few such services are available in my district. My district is largely rural and poor, and programs such as these are not readily available at convenient times and locations.

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

The NMCHF can continue to educate me on important issues regarding families and their obstacles in New Mexico.

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

No.