

**1. Your name and district number:**

Lloyd S. Ginsberg NM House # 29

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**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 root of the problem is teen pregnancy. Counseling and education programs are a band-aid approach. The key is PREVENTION of pregnancy through early, realistic sex education and confidential, free contraception.

**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?**

Strong families are formed by two ADULTS choosing to share their lives together, seldom - if ever- by two children marrying in their teens because they engaged in unprotected sex and are unwilling to terminate the pregnancy. I would work for universal health care including contraceptive options for teen age girls and availability of safe, legal abortions if that is her choice for dealing with an unexpected pregnancy. I would also work to streamline the adoption process for all loving couples wishing to adopt - without regard for sexual preference.

**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?**

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Early, realistic sex education. Free and easily available contraception, and if all else fails, defend a woman's right to choose - even if she is under 18.

**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?**

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I don't know.

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

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I can't do anything until I'm elected. Getting the word out is expensive, and I will gratefully accept any donation (up to the statutory limit) either through my website: [www.lloydginsberg.com](http://www.lloydginsberg.com), or directly at PO Box 67169, Albuquerque, NM 87193

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

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The family is the backbone of society, and the foundation of the family is a committed loving relationship between two responsible adults. Upon that basis, children can be nurtured in a secure, loving, supportive environment, enabling them to develop into strong, secure, responsible adults. The antithesis of this is children having children, dropping out of school, working for low wages for long hours, etc. The classic "cycle of poverty and misery". Teen pregnancy prevention needs to be a priority for our society.