

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

John Sapien - Senate district 9

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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?**

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End the cycle of TANF dependent families.

**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?**

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Commit more resources to early childhood education which includes programs which educate parents on how to be a good parent and educate their children properly. End the cycle by providing families with the necessary education to "build" a better student/child

**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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It may take time to see the benefits but by putting more resources into Early childhood education we prepare our children better for their education which spills over into the decisions they make early in life which will prevent teen pregnancy, by providing both girls and boys with other options they have in their lives.

**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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Will need to research this one.

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

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By putting resources in place for the neediest families whether supplemented by government money or not.

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

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**No Response**