

1. Your name and district number:

Bill Tallman Senate District #18

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?

Strengthening families will, ultimately, result in less money being spent on health care and on economic support of families. It will also result in fewer incarcerations.

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?

Support efforts to optimize parenting education and increase public awareness of the roadblocks child well-being.

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?

Again, (see #3) parenting education and public awareness are key factors in reducing the incidence of unwanted pregnancy, whether teen or older. I would work hard to allocate whatever fund possible toward parenting education and public awareness.

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?

Counseling services & mediation of family disputes are offered by churches, non-profit organizations and private agencies.

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

Provide information on programs and services NMCHF hopes to have supported and funded by the legislature. Keep me apprised of new developments and new opportunities for problem solving.

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

I am aware of the poor history New Mexico has regarding child security and services available to families. I hope to make a difference as a legislator. We can do better for our families.