

August 18, 2009

Overflow Crowd Invited to Stay for an Impromptu Second Q&A Session with Rep. Luján

Santa Fe, NM – Last night, Rep. Ben Ray Luján participated in a successful town hall hosted by the Santa Fe Unitarian Church Social Justice Committee, Health Action New Mexico and Results Santa Fe. The event featured a panel of speakers including Lydia Pendley (board president of Health Action New Mexico), Dr. Tyler Taylor (primary care physician of Los Alamos), and Rep. Luján. The event reached capacity early, with 180 attendees joining the discussion. The fire marshal closed the doors to the event once the building reached its full capacity. Rep. Luján and the organizers of the event agreed to hold a second question and answer session immediately following the first event so that all attendees would have a chance to participate. Over 300 people participated in total.

“Last night’s forum was constructive and helpful for me and hopefully for the many New Mexicans who attended the event,” said Rep. Luján. “I would especially like to thank the many people who waited to attend the second question and answer session after it was announced that the building had reached its capacity just 30 minutes after the doors opened. Every New Mexican who attended last night’s event deserves credit for their active and enthusiastic participation in our Democratic process. It is a point of pride for me that we were able to hold a positive event that focused on the substance of health insurance reform. I’d also like to thank the organizers of the event and the other panelists for their great work and insights.”

The format, set by the event's hosts, the Santa Fe Unitarian Church Social Justice Committee, Health Action New Mexico and Results Santa Fe, initiated a constructive explanation of the health insurance reform proposal before Congress. Attendees wrote questions on note cards, which were then read to the panel by a moderator. Questions were not pre-screened, and they addressed a broad spectrum of opinions on the current health insurance reform debate.