

**Bipartisan Support Is Necessary for Our State's Progressive Future**  
**By Senator Pete Campos**

It is impossible to accomplish anything of any importance without bipartisan support. It is essential that the legislature work to craft the most effective legislation for the betterment of the state and those we serve.

Achieving bipartisan support for most initiatives should not be difficult. After all, we are all New Mexicans with common interests. Let's build upon those interests, understand our differences and move forward together for the sake of our families, communities and entire state.

I am committed to reaching out across political divides and improving the path we all take together.

On the state budget, we must work objectively to craft a balanced budget that provides basic public services like health care, education and public safety for the poor, every child and our entire state's population. By working together, we can solve problems early; make difficult choices that will help, rather than hinder, in the long run; and collaborate like never before, all in the interest of the citizens we serve.

With regard to public education, we must work together to improve our research methodologies; build strong math, science and reading programs; and address the growing needs of our state agencies to improve their facilities and infrastructure. We cannot ignore our state responsibilities.

We must improve health care and find ways for every New Mexican to have health care insurance. We cannot let single mothers raise their children without good health care. If we do not address this pressing problem immediately, our next generation will not be strong and will be unable to withstand the ailments and pressures of society.

We must reduce dependence on oil and gas and develop new technologies to increase the availability of renewable energy. From the global warming crisis comes an opportunity to be more responsible with our energy resources; we can depend on the human genius and talents of our state's population to meet this challenge.

We must also create an immigration task force to study immigration trends, problems and other border issues and develop solutions to build border relations instead of creating tension, uneasiness and resistance.

Real solutions are possible if we treat each other with civility, unify where possible and ultimately work to better the lives of all New Mexicans.