

**CS/S 413 HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR UNMARRIED
DEPENDENTS**

April 5, 2001

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 60

I have this day VETOED and am returning CORPORATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 413, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, First Session, 2001.

This bill would require group health care coverage of unmarried dependants until the age of twenty-five. It would help address the problem of young adults who cannot afford or obtain health insurance coverage and seems like a step in the right direction. However, as currently written, this legislation relates to any group health care coverage and does not specifically exclude Medicaid. The New Mexico Salud! Medicaid managed care program is a model of efficiency that maintains responsible cost restraints, while delivering superior health care services. Presently, Salud! does not cover young adults until their twenty-fifth birthday, and to do so would cost the state millions of additional dollars and require an expansion of staff and administration that is unthinkable. New Mexicans have come to expect an extremely high level of health care services because Salud! operates so efficiently and effectively. It does not make sense to put services, vital to so many, in jeopardy. A more tailored piece of legislation that addresses this problem but specifically excludes Medicaid would be more acceptable for all New Mexicans.

CS/S 418 EXPAND MEDICAID FOR CERTAIN CUSTODIAL PARENTS

March 15, 2001

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 13

I have this day VETOED and am returning SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 418, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Fifth Legislature, First Session, 2001.

This bill would expand the current Medicaid system to include certain parents of Medicaid-eligible children. Salud! As it presently exists provides New Mexico the ability to maintain a state-of-the-art, cost effective health care service model for the state. This bill would add millions of additional dollars and multiple layers of bureaucracy to this successful program. For