

**POSITION STATEMENT**  
**MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE FOR NEW MEXICO – MARCH 2007**

The New Mexico Human Rights Coalition supports an immediate minimum wage increase to \$7.50 per hour for employees in New Mexico.

Except for the City of Santa Fe whose local government has already raised the minimum wage in Santa Fe and Albuquerque whose local government raised the minimum wage effective in January of this year, the rest of New Mexico's minimum wage is a "poverty" wage. For perhaps many New Mexicans, a full tank of gas could be a full day's pay of \$42.00, at \$5.25 per hour. During this winter, PNM electric and gas prices rose for many to above \$200 per month. These are exceptionally high prices for many, many New Mexican workers.

The Coalition urges the New Mexico State Legislature to enact a bill raising the minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour, effective no later than January 1, 2008, and, upon its passage, the Coalition urges the governor to sign the bill.