



New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol
Santa Fe

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore of the Senate
The Honorable Javier Martínez, Speaker of the House
Members of the New Mexico Legislative Council
New Mexico State Capitol
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear President Pro Tempore Stewart, Speaker Martínez, and Members of the Legislative Council:

Pursuant to Section 2-3-3 NMSA 1978, which authorizes the Legislative Council to establish and direct interim legislative committees, we respectfully request that the Legislative Council authorize the formation of an interim committee to examine fraud, waste, and abuse within New Mexico state government.

The purpose of this committee would be to establish a formal, recurring venue for legislative oversight—specifically, to provide an appropriate forum for the Office of the State Auditor to present investigative findings directly to members of the Legislature and the public.

This request is informed by recent developments. Last week, legislators were briefed on findings stemming from a Legislative Finance Committee–initiated evaluation and related audit work involving the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), including the misappropriation of funds appropriated by the Legislature. While agencies may begin implementing corrective actions, the broader process remains largely internal and lacks a consistent, transparent mechanism for legislative review and public accountability.

We understand this is not an isolated incident. The State Auditor’s Office has produced numerous reports identifying deficiencies in internal controls, improper expenditures, and systemic program failures across agencies. However, there is currently no standing interim committee specifically charged with reviewing these findings in a comprehensive, coordinated manner or translating them into legislative action.

As members of the legislative branch, we have a constitutional responsibility to ensure that appropriated funds are used as intended and that state government operates with transparency and accountability. Establishing a dedicated interim committee would allow the Legislature to:

- Receive regular briefings from the State Auditor on completed and ongoing investigations;
- Identify patterns of fraud, waste, and abuse across agencies;

- Evaluate the adequacy of agency corrective actions; and
- Develop targeted statutory and budgetary reforms to prevent recurrence.

Absent a formal structure, we intend to convene a Republican-led task force this summer to elevate these issues and provide a public forum for discussion. However, our strong preference is for this work to occur within an official interim committee framework, with full legislative participation and the authority of the Legislature.

We also anticipate bringing forward legislation in the upcoming legislative session to formalize this effort.

This request is not about partisanship. It is about restoring public trust and ensuring that the Legislature fulfills its oversight role on behalf of the taxpayers of New Mexico.

We respectfully request your consideration and stand ready to work with leadership and staff to develop the scope, structure, and charge of this committee.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,



Crystal Brantley
New Mexico State Senator



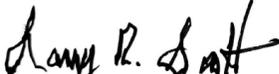
Nicole Tobiassen
New Mexico State Senator



William "Bill" Sharer
New Mexico State Senator



Jay Block
New Mexico State Senator



Larry Scott
New Mexico State Senator



Craig Brandt
New Mexico State Senator



Jim Townsend
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Pat Boone
New Mexico State Senator



Gabriel Ramos
New Mexico State Senator



Anthony "Ant" Thornton
New Mexico State Senator



Candy Spence Ezzell
New Mexico State Senator



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New Mexico State Senator



Rex Wilson
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Joshua A. Sanchez
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