

**Testimony of Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury  
Before the Energy and Commerce Committee  
Member Day Hearing  
December 12, 2025**

Thank you, Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee for the opportunity to appear before the committee today to discuss our priorities for New Mexico and our communities.

I appreciate the Committee's continued commitment to fostering bipartisan collaboration to deliver meaningful results for the American people. As you carry out the broad and important work within your jurisdiction, I am here today to respectfully highlight three key policy areas that are essential to addressing the needs of New Mexico and my constituents: (1) expanding access to high quality health care and behavioral health; (2) driving energy and affordability solutions that serve both our economy and our planet; and (3) cleaning up and protecting the environment for future generations.

**I. Expanding Health Care**

I want to first thank this Committee for its work to expand access to health care. I believe that health care is a human right and that access to health care should not depend on who you are or where you live. But, for far too many in New Mexico, geography and economics remain significant barriers to accessing life-saving care.

Let me be clear at the outset, our communities are facing a health care crisis in our state and in many communities across the country and we need Congress to act. In the short-term that means extending the Affordable Care Act. In the medium term it means fixing a broken system: investing in health care providers—particularly in rural and tribal areas—lowering the cost of care and prescription drugs, bolstering the Indian Health Service (IHS), and addressing the fentanyl and addiction crisis ravaging our communities. Over the long term it means comprehensive reforms to ensure access to universal care.

To accomplish these goals, I currently have a large body of bipartisan work before the Committee I'd like to highlight and ask for your support. Specifically, I respectfully request the Committee advance the following health care priorities:

**A. Building Pipelines for Doctors, Nurses, and Care Providers**

- The Public Health Nursing Act is designed to strengthen the public health nursing workforce by funding recruitment, training, and support for public health nurses in underserved areas, aiming to improve care for chronic diseases, maternal and infant health, and vulnerable populations.
- The Indian Health Service (IHS) Provider Expansion Act (H.R. 3670) would make permanent a program at IHS for Graduate Medical Education Programs to expand the pipeline of health care providers in tribal communities.

## **B. Lowering Health Care Costs and Expanding Access to Care**

- The Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act (H.R. 6166), sponsored by Ranking Member Pallone, would lower the cost of prescription drugs for seniors on Medicare.
- The Small practice, Underserved, and Rural Support program Extension Act (SURs Act) which I formerly introduced with Representative Burgess, would help doctors and clinics in rural and underserved communities stay in business by improving Medicare reimbursement rates. In the coming months I hope to also work with the Committee on legislation to also address Medicaid reimbursement rates—as a large percentage of New Mexicans access care through Medicaid and Medicare.
- The Community Connect Grant Program Act (H.R. 6070) would help expand high-speed internet access to underserved rural and tribal communities, which will also help expand access to telehealth services in these communities.

## **C. Tackling the Addiction and Behavioral Health Crisis**

- The STOPP Act (H.R. 1100) and other bipartisan legislation I am cosponsoring as a member of the Bipartisan Fentanyl Caucus is critical to tackling the addiction crisis and illicit trafficking of fentanyl that is ravaging our communities. Addressing the addiction and behavioral health crisis in our communities is one of our top priorities and I look forward to working with the Committee to getting meaningful solutions across the finish line to help save lives and ensure our communities are safe and have access to care.

## **II. Addressing Energy Costs and Needs**

I respectfully request that the Committee continue addressing the rising energy prices that are placing significant burdens on communities across the United States, including in New Mexico. Skyrocketing electricity, heating, and fuel costs are creating significant hardships, particularly for rural and economically vulnerable communities. Given the Committee's jurisdiction over energy infrastructure, reliability, affordability, and security, I look forward to working with you

on legislation to advance practical, evidence-based solutions—through both oversight and legislative action—that could help ease these burdens and strengthen our energy resilience.

Funding for energy projects remains especially critical in New Mexico, where power and energy-sector jobs are essential to both rural and urban communities. I am appreciative of the Committee’s strong oversight in this matter, which is vital to ensuring transparency, protecting impacted communities, and helping maintain stable, forward-looking energy investments across the state. Specifically, I look forward to working with the Committee to advance the following energy priorities:

- Bipartisan Community Energy Resilience legislation we are currently working on that would support local communities and workers facing a shifting energy landscape and those who are most affected by transitions in the energy sector.
- Legislation to repeal certain energy Executive Orders by the President, led by Rep. Castor (H.R.1781), to ensure the U.S. energy sector is not turning it’s back on clean and affordable energy, including repeal of the following Executive Orders: “Unleashing American Energy,” “Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements,” “Declaring a National Energy Emergency,” and “Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government’s Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects.”
- The Weatherization Enhancement and Readiness Act (HR 1355) sponsored by Rep. Tonko, which would reauthorize the existing Weatherization Assistance Program, which is a vital program to states and Tribal organizations to ensure low-income families are safe and warm and able to make structural, plumbing, roofing, electrical, and other weatherization repairs and improvements.
- While it is not in the jurisdiction of this Committee, I wanted to highlight the important collaborations between this Committee and others that led to the historic investments in clean energy we made in the Inflation Reduction Act and to ask for your support in advancing the Energy Independence and Affordability Act (EIAA) (H.R. 5862) which I am cosponsoring with Rep. Thompson and others to restore clean energy tax credits and other provisions vital to our utilities and energy providers.

### **III. Protecting and Restoring the Environment**

Finally, I would like to respectfully request that the Committee continue its work to strengthen environmental protections that safeguard public health, preserve natural resources, and ensure that vulnerable communities are not disproportionately burdened by pollution. This Committee

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plays a critical role in this work by overseeing key environmental statutes, advancing policies that strengthen cleanup and mitigation efforts, and guiding federal agencies responsible for enforcement.

Your leadership is vital to ensuring that environmental protections remain strong, science-based, and responsive to the needs of communities across the country. Of particular importance in New Mexico is the implementation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Many Tribal communities in particular face longstanding challenges in addressing the clean-up of contaminated lands, abandoned industrial sites, and legacy pollution that threatens public health, cultural resources, and environmental integrity. These issues are often compounded by the complex legal and jurisdictional issues that Tribal governments must navigate.

Given the Committee's jurisdiction over environmental statutes, including CERCLA, and its role in shaping policies that promote environmental cleanup and remediation, I respectfully ask that the Committee continue examining opportunities to improve cleanup efforts, enhance tribal consultation, and ensure equitable access to technical assistance and resources.

Specifically, I respectfully request the Committee advance the following environment priority:

- Legislation to strengthen CERCLA provisions for tribal lands and increase resources and funding for clean up, with the goal of expediting the cleanup of Superfund and other sites that impact tribal communities. Tribal nations often face unique challenges under existing law, including limited access to funding, jurisdictional authorities, and technical assistance, which can delay remediation efforts and prolong exposure to hazardous substances. This legislation would streamline the process for identifying, assessing, and remediating contaminated sites on tribal lands, provide dedicated federal funding and technical assistance, and ensure that Tribal governments and communities are in the lead in these cleanup efforts.

Thank you again for your leadership and for considering these priorities. I am grateful for your attention to these issues and stand ready to work with the Committee to advance policies that deliver real results for New Mexicans and all Americans.