

**John B. Kernan, M.D.**  
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Hobbs, New Mexico 88240  
(575) 392-7798

October 7, 2015

Randy Marshall  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Medical Society  
316 Osuna NE, Suite 501  
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Dear Mr. Marshall:

As a practicing, primary care physician in eastern New Mexico for over thirty years, it is critical that my patients have access to specialty care that is most often provided in Lubbock, Midland and Odessa, Texas. It has recently come to my attention that many doctors from Lubbock, Texas, are considering closing their practice to residents of New Mexico in light of the pending lawsuit that is currently before the New Mexico Supreme Court. In fact, I had a conversation with a prominent pain management physician from Lubbock who confirmed to me that he will no longer see patients from New Mexico. Currently, he has over 257 New Mexico patients under his care. He has agreed to see them on a limited basis until December, 2015, at which time he will require them to seek other medical care. This greatly concerns me as a referring physician as there are very few doctors in our area who can provide the level of care and have the clinical expertise that is required to treat seriously ill patients.

A second concern I have is access related to Level 1 Trauma Care which is critical for rural New Mexicans in the border counties. When it is necessary to transfer a patient for acute critical care, my only option is to utilize Texas Tech University Medical Center. We have no fewer than an average of 3 flights a day taking Lea County residents via helicopter or ambulance to Texas Tech UMC. Without this timely option, the lives of New Mexicans will surely be at risk.

As a practicing physician in New Mexico, it is absolutely imperative that this issue be resolved quickly and without further interruption in order that my patients and all New Mexicans can have access to medical care both within and outside the borders of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John B. Kernan, MD." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "MD." at the end.

John B. Kernan, MD