



NEW MEXICO ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

STRONG MEDICINE FOR NEW MEXICO

November 17, 2015

The Board of Directors of the New Mexico Academy of Family Physicians wishes to voice its concern about the patient care consequences of the *Montano v Frezza* ruling. Family physicians from throughout New Mexico frequently refer patients to physicians in Texas and other states bordering New Mexico. Frequently the Newborn ICU at both Presbyterian Hospital and University of New Mexico Hospital are filled, requiring that at-risk mothers or babies be transferred out of state. Similarly, specialty services and trauma patients frequently require transfer to nearby trauma centers in El Paso, Lubbock, Tucson or Durango.

If the *Montano* decision stands, our out-of-state referral sources may, for their protection, decline to accept transfers or referrals from New Mexico. This would have catastrophic consequences for the citizens of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Melissa Garcia, MD, Board Chair

Greg Koury, MD, President

John Andazola, MD, President-Elect

Frank Ralls, MD, Secretary Treasurer