



714 4th St. SW ♦ Albuquerque, NM 87102 ♦ (505) 246-1627

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2016

Contact: Isaac De Luna Navarro (505) 917-5501

**PROPOSED CHANGES ON REGULATIONS WOULD TARGET NM'S MOST
VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES**

*The Martinez's Administration Tried To Silence Public Input
On Proposed Regulation Changes*

ALBUQUERQUE, NM– At a hearing today held by the NM Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)– El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos opposed the lack of transparency and the administration's attempt to circumvent the process by which the public can give input regarding proposed regulation changes for the soon-to-be implemented– two-tier license and ID system– HB99. In addition, El CENTRO and ally organizations urged the administration to reconsider the harsh and restrictive regulations that are either not required or are in direct violation of HB99 that would result in preventing tens of thousands of New Mexico's most vulnerable communities from obtaining a non-Real ID Act compliant identification or Driving Authorization Card (D.A.C).

“Thank to the leadership of Somos Un Pueblo Unido, the NM Coalition to End Homelessness, the NM Center on Law and Poverty and other ally organizations the Martinez's administration was not allowed to implement newly proposed regulations for HB99– the bipartisan compromise that creates a two-tier license and ID system in NM-- before hearing public comment.”

“The Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) was in essence trying to circumvent the democratic process and deny our communities the opportunity to comment on the regulations and have their comments considered by the Department. If implemented, these regulations will prevent tens of thousands of New Mexicans from vulnerable communities– more specifically the elderly, low-income and poor communities, the homeless and victims of domestic violence– from obtaining a Driving Authorization Card or a positive form of identification.

“No one benefits from creating harsher requirements to obtain a state-issued ID or D.A.C.. Gov. Martinez has once again shown her desire to continue pushing her anti-immigrant agenda on the issue of drivers' licenses. The administration needs to stop overstepping its authority and playing games with the stability of families in our state who

are most vulnerable. A majority of New Mexicans and the Legislature wanted a real alternative to the REAL ID. The D.A.C. is the alternative to the Real ID and it should be made accessible to all New Mexicans.”

– **EI CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos**

###

**EI CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos is a grassroots, immigrants' rights and workers' justice organization based in Albuquerque with over 3000 members.*