



VALENCIA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION No 2020-10

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE TO
REPEAL THE TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS**

WHEREAS, the Valencia County Board of County Commissioners met upon notice of a regular meeting, duly published, at the Valencia County Administrative Offices, 444 Luna Avenue, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031, on January 8, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, in 1990, the New Mexico Legislature passed Senate Bill 310, which repealed New Mexico's tax exemption for Social Security benefits; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, taxpayers aged 65 and older with incomes up to \$18,000, or \$30,000 for married couples, are eligible to exempt just \$8,000 from their total income, which includes Social Security benefits; and

WHEREAS, tax exemption is phased out as senior's income increases, so by the time an individual's income reaches \$28,501, or \$51,001 for a married couple, they receive no exemption for any of their income, including Social Security benefits; and,

WHEREAS, a Social Security tax is a form of double taxation because when New Mexicans receive their paychecks, the money that is taken out for Social Security is subject to federal and state income taxes, then they are taxed again on the benefits they receive; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico is just one of thirteen states in the country that levies an income tax on Social Security payments to at least some beneficiaries, and has the second highest tax on Social Security benefits in the nation; and,

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are 120,000 New Mexicans aged 65 and older, which makes up 17.5% of the state's population; and,

WHEREAS, at 12.2%, New Mexico is ranked third in the nation in the percentage of seniors living in poverty; and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico's state tax on Social Security benefits costs the average Social Security recipient nearly \$700 a year; and,

WHEREAS, the average Social Security benefit in New Mexico is only \$13,900 a year, and the cost of food, housing, and healthcare averages \$28,000 a year for older Americans, so seniors are left facing impossible choices between buying food or medicine or keeping the lights, heat and water on; and,

WHEREAS, taxing Social Security benefits undermines the purpose of the Social Security Act, which was designed to lift seniors out of poverty, and not to fund state government.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF VALENCIA COUNTY, that

1. The Board of County Commissioners urges the Governor of New Mexico to add the repeal of the state tax on Social Security benefits in New Mexico to the upcoming 2020 New Mexico Legislative Session agenda.
2. If placed on the 2020 New Mexico Legislative Session agenda, the Board of County Commissioners urges the New Mexico State Legislature to vote to repeal the state tax on Social Security benefits in New Mexico.
3. A copy of this resolution to be sent to the Governor of New Mexico and the New Mexico Senators and Representatives representing Valencia County in the New Mexico Legislature.


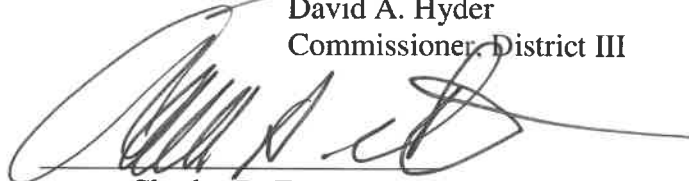

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 8th day of January, 2020.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF VALENCIA COUNTY



Jhonathan Aragon
Commissioner, District V

Vacant
Commissioner, District II


Gerard Saiz
Commissioner, District I
David A. Hyder
Commissioner, District III
Charles D. Eaton
Commissioner, District IV

Attest:

Peggy Carabajal
Valencia County Clerk