

For Immediate Release  
Moritomo February 15,  
2010

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## **Senate Confirms Ken Ortiz As Workforce Solutions Cabinet Secretary**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico State Senate approved Ken Ortiz as the new Secretary for the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions. Senators and members of the public had strong words of support and praise for the effort Ortiz has put forth since being appointed to the position in August 2009.

“I knew Ken was the best person to lead this department during this critical time in New Mexico,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “Ken has a proven track record of making government work effectively and efficiently. Since joining Workforce Solutions, numerous improvements have been made within the department.”

Mr. Ortiz previously served as a Deputy Secretary for the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions. Prior to joining Workforce Solutions, Ken came from the Taxation and Revenue Department where he served, most recently, as State MVD Director since 2005. During his tenure as Director, MVD increased service to the public by decreasing the average wait times, improving technology, and improving customer satisfaction.

Ortiz began his state government career as a Financial Auditor for the Human Services Department, Office of Inspector General specializing in Medicaid Fraud and moved to the Taxation and Revenue Department in 2000 as a tax auditor for various tax programs within TRD. In 2002, Ortiz implemented the “Drive Insured” program, which has reduced New Mexico’s uninsured rate from a worst in the nation 33% to 9% currently.

Ken Ortiz is a native New Mexican.