

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SOS Toulouse Oliver Encourages New Mexico Businesses to Adopt Family Friendly Policies**

SANTA FE – Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver announced that she is encouraging New Mexico business owners to adopt family friendly policies – including health benefits and maternity or paternity leave – for their employees. Secretary Toulouse Oliver presented the Family Friendly Business Awards at an annual luncheon today hosted by Family Friendly New Mexico as part of her ongoing partnership with the nonprofit organization.

“When business owners make a conscious effort to support their employees with family friendly policies, their employees are able to bring their full selves to work and be more productive,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “I encourage all New Mexico employers to adopt these common sense policies to help employees juggle their responsibilities at home and at the workplace.”

“The most important workplace benefit is knowing you will be able to take care of your own family,” said Giovanna Rossi, Executive Director of Family Friendly New Mexico. “We appreciate Secretary Toulouse Oliver making these resources available, and we hope business owners will take advantage of them to build a stronger workforce for New Mexico.”

In addition to presenting the Family Friendly Business Awards today, Secretary Toulouse Oliver announced that her office will send flyers created by Family Friendly New Mexico to businesses that register with the Secretary of State. The flyers ask New Mexico business owners to apply for the Family Friendly Business Award, which can be displayed at their place of business so customers and employees know that the business supports every employee’s efforts to balance their professional and personal responsibilities.

In order to win the award, applicants must confirm that their business already has family friendly policies in place from four categories: paid leave, health support, work schedule support, and economic support. Gold Award recipients meet at least one family friendly policy in each of the four categories, Silver Award meet any three family friendly categories, and Bronze Award recipients meet two or fewer. Secretary Toulouse Oliver’s office has won the Gold Award for the second year in a row in 2018.

All corporations, limited liability companies and partnerships that transact business in New Mexico, except for sole proprietorships, must register with the Secretary of State’s office before doing business in the state.

The goal of Family Friendly New Mexico is to expand access to family friendly policies such as paid leave, health support, economic support, and flexible scheduling, so that workers achieve healthy work-life balance.

Secretary Toulouse Oliver also encourages business owners to take the Family Friendly New Mexico survey so the business owners have a better understanding of how many family friendly policies they currently have in place and can address any gaps in the benefits they offer their employees. To learn more about family friendly policies, to take the Family Friendly New Mexico survey, or to apply for a Family Friendly Business award, [visit the Secretary of State's Website](#).

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