



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Support HJR 3 Requirements for Denial of Bail, CA

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

The New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) is an organization of hundreds of businesses and thousands of New Mexicans. Its focus is to make New Mexico a better place to live, work, and run a business so that New Mexicans have jobs and can provide for their families.

We support HJR 3 Requirements for Denial of Bail, CA. It would allow voters to correct language from a misunderstood constitutional amendment that passed in 2020 that produced severe unintended consequences. We have seen the terrible harm that violent offenders released 'on their own recognizance' pending trial has created. The crime rate in New Mexico has increased significantly leaving many residents afraid to live here.

As it is now, judges are routinely forced or choose to release individuals back into the community who have been charged with violent crimes. This includes accused perpetrators of murder, rape, child abuse, and more. We've seen too many times that this 'catch and release' system ends in further crimes committed, lives lost, and families destroyed.

From a business perspective, New Mexico's crime rate has become nationally notable and an embarrassment to our state. As a result, some businesses are choosing to leave New Mexico so they can open businesses where they are not at risk of armed robbery, theft, and endangering their employees. While this bill is aimed at the worst offenders, it should have a positive impact on all crime.

Please consider the safety and well-being of all New Mexicans and allow voters to fix our bail system. We urge you to say 'YES' to HJR 3 Requirements for Denial of Bail, CA.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carla J. Sonntag".

Carla J. Sonntag
President/CEO