



RE: HB 9 Immigrant Safety Act – NMBC Opposes

Dear Senators,

On behalf of the New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) and the thousands of business owners, entrepreneurs, and workers we represent across the state, we write in strong opposition to HB 9 Immigrant Safety Act.

HB 9 not only exacerbates New Mexico's ongoing public safety crisis, but it also poses a **serious threat to jobs, local economies, and county revenues**, particularly in rural communities. New Mexico already ranks among the worst states for violent crime, homicides, and repeat-offender activity—conditions that directly undermine economic growth, discourage investment, and drive businesses and families out of the state. By restricting cooperation between state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies, HB 9 weakens the ability of law enforcement to remove dangerous offenders from our communities.

Equally concerning, HB 9 would effectively force the termination of federal detention contracts in New Mexico, placing **hundreds—and potentially thousands**—of jobs at **risk** in counties that host ICE detention facilities. In communities such as **Otero, Cibola, and Torrance Counties**, these facilities are among the **largest employers**, supporting not only direct detention-center jobs, but also contractors, service providers, and local businesses that depend on this economic activity. The loss of these facilities would severely destabilize local economies, reduce county revenues, and eliminate family-supporting jobs in regions that already face limited employment opportunities.

The connection between public safety and economic prosperity is undeniable. High crime rates deter tourism, suppress entrepreneurship, and push employers to relocate. At the same time, the loss of major employers in rural New Mexico would accelerate population decline and weaken already fragile tax bases. HB 9 compounds both problems—making communities less safe and less economically viable.

Opposing HB 9 is not about rejecting compassion or due process. It is about ensuring that New Mexico maintains enforceable standards that protect residents, support victims, and preserve the economic foundations of our communities. Our state can treat individuals fairly without sacrificing public safety or destroying jobs.

NMBC respectfully urges you to **vote NO on HB 9**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carla J. Sonntag
President & CEO