



RE: SB 70 Guaranteed Basic Income Program – NMBC Opposes

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of New Mexico employers and working families, we write in **strong opposition to Senate Bill 70**, which would establish a state-authorized guaranteed basic income program.

While well-intentioned, SB 70 represents a significant shift in public policy that creates **long-term fiscal risk**, weakens workforce participation, and diverts limited public resources away from proven strategies that promote self-sufficiency.

SB 70 authorizes recurring direct cash payments **without a durable funding source, meaningful cost cap, or long-term sustainability plan**. Once created, programs of this nature are politically difficult to unwind, even if costs escalate or outcomes fall short. At a time when New Mexico faces critical needs in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and public safety, SB 70 risks committing the state to a **permanent entitlement-style obligation** with uncertain results.

New Mexico already struggles with **one of the lowest workforce participation rates in the nation**, while employers across industries report persistent labor shortages. SB 70 moves in the opposite direction by **further decoupling income from work**, potentially discouraging labor force participation.

SB 70 asks working New Mexicans and employers to fund a program that is **not tied to employment, training, or measurable progress toward self-sufficiency**. Public assistance should reinforce work and skill development—not replace them. This approach places an unfair burden on those who work, hire, and pay taxes while weakening the principle that opportunity is built through participation in the workforce.

If the Legislature seeks to improve affordability and economic mobility, more effective options include: 1) Workforce training and apprenticeship programs; 2) Supporting job creation and wage growth; and 3) Strengthening education and skills pipelines aligned with labor-market demand.

SB 70 is a costly policy experiment that New Mexico cannot afford. It increases fiscal risk, undermines workforce participation, and diverts resources from solutions that strengthen long-term economic independence.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to **vote NO on SB 70**.

Sincerely,

Carla J. Sonntag
President & CEO