



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

PO Box 95735
Albuquerque, NM 87199
(505 836-4223)

RE: SJR 6 Denial of Bail CA - NMBC Supports

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

On behalf of the New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC), I write in strong support of Senate Joint Resolution 6.

New Mexico continues to face serious public safety challenges, including tragic cases in which individuals released pending trial allegedly committed additional violent crimes. The constitutional bail language adopted in 2016, while well-intended, has proven difficult to apply in high-risk cases and has limited judicial discretion even when clear danger exists.

SJR 6 provides a measured constitutional adjustment that allows courts to deny bail when a defendant poses an unreasonable risk to public safety or is an unreasonable flight risk. It restores balanced discretion to judges without eliminating due process or mandating detention. Courts would still evaluate cases individually, but they would no longer be constrained by an evidentiary standard that has proven overly rigid in practice.

Importantly, SJR 6 places this decision before the voters, giving New Mexicans the opportunity to correct constitutional language that has produced serious unintended consequences and to recalibrate the balance between individual liberty and community safety.

Safe communities are foundational to economic stability. Businesses cannot thrive where crime undermines workforce confidence, increases operating costs, and discourages investment. SJR 6 strengthens public safety while preserving fairness and judicial oversight.

For these reasons, NMBC respectfully urges a **YES vote on SJR 6**.

Carla J. Sonntag
President and CEO