



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Oppose HB 20 Healthy Workplaces Act

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

The New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) represents hundreds of businesses and thousands of New Mexicans. Our focus is to make New Mexico a better place to do business so that New Mexicans have jobs and can provide for their families.

We understand why people want this bill passed; however NMBC respectfully opposes this bill and HB 37 which is similar. From the state's perspective, it creates 10 new full time employees, including necessary technological investments for it to be carried out. HB 20 however includes no appropriation for those new employees or the nearly \$100,000 in new technology that will be needed for its implementation.

Of concern to NMBC, are the jurisdictional issues created in these bills between District Attorneys who currently handle other labor issues and the Attorney General who does not. Additionally, advocacy groups with no standing in a case could intervene, creating an unprecedented situation as well as an additional burden for business owners.

The financial burden for employers caused by this bill will force many to reduce hours, job openings, or worse close their business entirely. New Mexicans cannot afford this right now in light of the extended pandemic lockdown. Further, NMBC opposes blanket mandates, like those proposed in HB 20 because they are unnecessary and a growing burden on small business owners. These mandates end up hurting, not helping, New Mexico families. Wages and benefits should be negotiated between the employer and employee with respect to the unique situations and constraints for every business. Government attempts to micromanage this process leads to serious problems and reduce the opportunities for growth and employment for businesses and employees alike.

If the sponsor is willing, we would like to work all interested parties on these types of bills.

On behalf of hard working New Mexicans and the businesses that need assistance amid this economic downturn, we urge you to say 'NO' to HB 20.

Thank you,

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

Carla J. Sonntag
President