



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Support HJR 4 Conditions for Denial of Bail, CA

Mr./Madam 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.

NMBC strongly supports HJR 4 because it aligns with one of our legislative priority policy positions dealing with public safety. We published those positions and each of you received a copy. One of the elements of our public safety position is that New Mexico's criminal code and judicial system must be strengthened to stop 'catch and release' policies that enable repeat offenders to continue their heinous crimes.

The proposed constitutional amendment would allow for a judge to determine, based on the circumstances of a particular crime and details relating to a particular suspect, "that no release conditions will reasonably ensure the appearance of the person as required or protect the safety of any other person or the community."

There are numerous examples of where the current system leaves judges with little option but to release a suspect who is pending trial and the results have been tragic. Furthermore, this amendment maintains the standard that pretrial detention and release decisions are not based on a suspect's financial ability to post bail.

New Mexicans deserve to feel safe in their communities. The fact is our state's crime rate, most often tied to repeat offenders who are back out on the streets, is a major factor in business decisions to move to our state or existing businesses to leave our state. We can and must do better and this amendment is a step in the right direction.

We urge you to support HJR 4 and vote 'YES' on this proposed constitutional amendment.

Thank you,

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

Carla J. Sonntag  
President