



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Support SB 171 On-Campus Ed. In Public Health Emergency

Mr. 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 support SB 171 On-Campus Ed. In Public Health Emergency. We believe one of the most important things we can do for New Mexico's children is to allow them to safely receive education in the format determined best by local school districts. In-person learning is critical not only for better instruction, but for the socialization opportunities it provides. If the school district determines that they can accomplish in person or a hybrid in person and online education, then it should be allowed. Our children lag behind the rest of the nation and our educational system is often considered substandard with some of the lowest rankings in the nation. This bill will help our children get back on track after an extended period of no or limited online instruction.

There is nothing more important to a school district than providing the best for its children. This bill would allow the districts to determine how best to safely educate students whether that is online, in person or a hybrid education model.

There is no appropriation in this bill as it is not attempting to grow government. Instead, it empowers school districts to review the best safety data available and implement the best educational model available for the children in its district.

We urge you to say 'YES' on SB 171 On-Campus Ed. In Public Health Emergency

Thank you,

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

Carla J. Sonntag
President