



**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.

NMBC respectfully opposes HB 20 Healthy Workplaces Act because it is bad for business and costly for the state. It requires 10 new full time state employees and technological investments. HB 20 however includes no appropriation for those new employees or the nearly \$100,000 in required technology.

HB 20 includes all employers and provides Paid Sick Leave (PSL) for every 30 hours worked up to 64 hours per year. It further requires 80 hours of supplemental leave for fulltime employees and double the hours worked by part time employees during a public health emergency. This supplemental time off can be used for 4 weeks after termination of emergency orders. And all of this is required at a time when many businesses may be closed or working under a severely limited schedule. With no or restricted operations, most business will not have the revenue to cover this requirement.

This bill has some of the most burdensome requirements in the U.S. Financially, it could cause employers 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.

Finally, the bill creates an unprecedented legal situation where the Attorney General, an employee or employee's agent can file a court action for up to 3 years after the alleged violation where the burden of proof is solely on the business owner to defend. In addition, there are jurisdictional issues created in this bill between District Attorneys who currently handle labor issues and the Attorney General who does not.

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