



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: Oppose SB 198 Paid Sick Leave 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 opposes SB 198 Paid Sick Leave Act and HB 37, which is a duplicate. The financial issues created by this bill on employers will force many 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.

The financial burden on employers which would occur from this legislation would include the accumulation of paid leave at a rate that is more burdensome than any other similar legislation in the U.S. It includes the added burden of pandemic leave, which has most recently been handled through the unemployment insurance fund. There are myriad administrative requirements to manage the paid leave as well as legal implications. Employers must defend against legal action that can be brought by any party. Advocates or advocacy groups, with no standing in a case, could intervene in legal actions against employers. Defense of the claim is strictly born by the employer as well as legal fees. This creates an unprecedented situation for business owners to defend.

From the state's perspective, it creates additional administrative and technological requirements for which there is no appropriation. Additionally there are jurisdictional issues created in these bills between District Attorneys who currently handle other 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 SB 198.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla J. Sonntag".

Carla J. Sonntag
President