



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: SB 156 Standard for Pretrial Release - NMBC Supports

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 live and work, where we have an abundance of good-paying jobs to provide for our families.

NMBC strongly supports SB 156 Standard for Pretrial Release. We support any effort to keep those criminals considered a danger to society incarcerated until they receive a fair trial.

New Mexico has one of the worst crime rates in the nation which has left many residents afraid to live here. In addition, it is a deterrent to people wanting to move here. Much of the problems related to our out-of-control crime rate is directly attributed to the revolving door on our correctional institutions that was created over the past three years by laws passed by the legislature and signed by the governor.

In addition to the revolving door for criminals, many officers are afraid to do their job because they are no longer protected by Qualified Immunity, which was taken away from them in 2021. Qualified Immunity allowed them to do their job without fear of lawsuits if someone were injured while the officer was operating appropriately according to their training and the law.

Corrective legislation has been offered for many years to no avail. We are glad to see the governor has taken an interest in this horrible crime situation that we now find ourselves in. NMBC supports SB 156 Standard for Pretrial Release and urges you to say 'YES' to its passage.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments,

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

Carla J. Sonntag
CEO