



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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RE: HB 4 Voting Rights Protections – NMBC Opposes

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

The New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) has an outreach to over 230,000 New Mexicans and **we adamantly oppose HB 4 Voting Rights Protections.**

HB 4 will endanger voting rights and voting system integrity in the following ways:

- Mandates state agencies to automatically register voters without their consent. New voters would have to opt out – after the fact. This is a violation of certain rights, such as religious and privacy and is dangerous for voting system integrity. (Sections 2, 8-10)
- Even though proof of citizenship is required to vote, the automatic registration mandate includes NM ‘residents’ who may not be here legally, which increases the likelihood of non-U.S. citizens being registered to vote. (Section 8, paragraph D-1).
- Individuals who do not provide documentation of citizenship are still allowed to affirm their citizenship and register at MVD. (Section 8, paragraph D-1)
- Creates a permanent absentee voter list, eroding secure and verifiable absentee voting practices. Permanent Absentee Voter rolls will increase issues for removal. New Mexico has not adequately cleared its voter rolls in decades, and this will make it worse. It will also create additional problems with ballots being delivered to an address after the person is deceased or has moved. (Section 11)
- Allows fully restored voting rights for felons prior to completion of Parole/ Probation, and application to restore rights. Everyone deserves a second chance, but they should first complete all requisite terms of their sentence. And then request their voting rights be restored. (Sections 6-7)
- Allows government building addresses to be used for ballots of anyone registered to vote on Indian nation, tribal or pueblo land. (Section 20)

There are many more reasons we oppose this bill, and we urge you to **say ‘NO’ to HB 4 Voting Rights Protections.**

Thank you,

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

Carla J. Sonntag
President