



**NEW MEXICO
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Representative Chandler, Chair
House Health and Human Services

February 9, 2023

Via email:

RE: HB 7: Reproductive & Gender-Affirming Healthcare Committee Meeting

Madame Chair:

During the hearing on HB 7 Reproductive & Gender-Affirming Healthcare, there were several people, including myself, participating remotely that were ready and desiring to speak at the committee hearing. Unfortunately, we were unable to speak due to the announcement you made that only people who had signed up to speak would be allowed to do so.

According to the New Mexico Legislature website and your committee calendar, there is no indication of a previous sign up requirement to speak at any meeting. And, in fact, you allowed anyone to speak in subsequent bill hearings following the discussion on HB 7 Reproductive & Gender-Affirming Healthcare.

My assistant called and spoke to someone in your office. He was told there is no need for previous registration of any kind and by clicking on the Zoom invitation link, anyone can speak during the committee hearing at the appropriate time.

The information announced by you, Madame Chair, during the meeting on HB 7 is in direct conflict with the information posted on the website, the information given by your assistant, as well as the procedure you were once again following on other bills in your committee.

This confusion has made it difficult for us to advocate for hard-working New Mexicans and to assist your constituents and others in the legislative process. Please let me know what the rules are for remote participation in the House Health and Human Services Committee to avoid future problems with citizen participation in your committee.

Thank you,

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

Carla J. Sonntag
President and CEO