



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**

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**RE: Oppose HB 25 Minimum Wage Increase & Indexing**

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

The New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) is an organization of hundreds of businesses and thousands of New Mexicans. Its focus is to make New Mexico a better place to live, work, and run a business so that New Mexicans have jobs and can provide for their families.

NMBC strongly opposes HB 25 Minimum Wage Increase & Indexing. The state on January 1, 2023, increased the wage mandate to \$12/hour. This is following the loss of 40 percent of New Mexico's businesses that were permanently closed during the Covid pandemic. The small business that remained in operation are struggling to recover lost revenue and to hire employees from a pool of many who have left the workforce.

This bill would Increase wages to the highest level in the U.S. with no justification. It is estimated to be \$16.31 by 2026 and will continue to rise. Further, government mandates are unwelcomed by New Mexico businesses and are a deterrent to those who would otherwise open a business here or bring a business to New Mexico. I would point out that most small businesses are struggling to keep their doors open and employees paid. As inflation ravages our budgets, this would only fuel that fire. Every time wages go up by government mandate, the business owner is forced to raise prices. The employee who may be excited to receive a wage increase will end up spending it many times over because of increased prices they will pay for food and necessities.

There is no doubt that this measure will cause more businesses to reduce job opportunities for those who need them most simply because they cannot afford to pay first time, unskilled job seekers at the highest minimum wage in the nation.

NMBC's position is that blanket mandates are unnecessary and a growing burden on small business owners who are trying to maintain or grow their operations. This wage rate will hurt, not help, New Mexico families.

New Mexico cannot afford additional business mandates and we urge you to say 'NO' on HB 25 Minimum Wage Increase & Indexing.

Thank you,

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

Carla J. Sonntag  
President/CEO