



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

PO Box 95735
Albuquerque, NM 87199
(505) 836-4223 FAX (505) 836-4522
www.nmbizcoalition.org

RE: Support SB 296 Medical Malpractice Changes

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 supports SB 296 Medical Malpractice Changes because we desperately need to repair the damage created from the significant liability limits currently on medical malpractice in New Mexico. SB 296 is a great start to a grave situation created a couple of years ago when medical liability limits were increased to the point that many doctors and health care providers couldn't purchase medical malpractice insurance to cover their practice.

Our state has lost many of its doctors and there are many more considering leaving if this situation isn't resolved during the 2023 legislative session. As a result, routine health care is no longer routine. New Mexicans are often left waiting for six to twelve months for diagnostic tests and this can often leave serious health issues undiagnosed until the situation is dangerous.

We should not have to travel to other states for health care and many cannot afford to do so. That means they are stuck here waiting and hoping their health will be okay.

We would prefer there not be a CPI adjustment in this bill and believe, in the long run, it would be detrimental. New limits can be addressed during a future legislative session, and I would encourage you to amend this out of SB 296.

For the reasons stated, NMBC supports SB 296 Medical Malpractice Changes 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