



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

P.O. Box 95735,
Albuquerque, NM 87199
(505) 235-6323

RE: Support **HB 170 Require Voter I.D.**

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 HB 170 Require Voter I.D., because election integrity is important to all New Mexicans. With identity theft a growing concern and the need to ensure every registered voter casts their own ballot, requiring valid identification is a simple but effective first step.

New Mexicans used to vote in small, neighborhood locations where people used to know each other. The need to show an I.D. was not a consideration in that era. As the population has increased and we have moved to “voter convenience centers,” voters are assisted by election workers whom they don’t know and who don’t know them. Identifying at the polls in today’s ‘vote at any location’ world helps prevent mistakes and facilitates quicker interaction between voters and election workers. This win-win proposition allows polling station lines to move quicker than the current system.

Only 67% of eligible voters voted in the 2024 general elections, and we should do everything possible to increase participation in our elections. Voter I.D. is a way to remove the ‘it takes too long’ objection and help voters feel confident that the integrity of their vote is secure.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to vote ‘YES’ on HB 170 Require Voter I.D.

Carla J. Sonntag,
President & CEO