



**NEW MEXICO
BUSINESS COALITION**

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

RE: Oppose **HB 246 Increase Minimum Wage**

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

The New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) represents hundreds of businesses and thousands of New Mexicans. We focus on making New Mexico a better place to live and work, with abundant good-paying jobs to provide for our families.

NMBC strongly opposes HB 246, which would raise the minimum wage to \$17 an hour with automatic yearly increases. This comes just two years after the wage increased to \$12/hour, a change that contributed to the number of business closures we've seen. Many small businesses are still recovering from COVID-19, inflation, and hiring challenges. Additional mandates like this can and will push some of them over the edge.

While raising wages may seem like a positive step, non-market-driven government mandates increase expenses that trigger a cycle of rising costs. When businesses are forced to increase wages regardless of qualifications or worker performance, they must raise prices to cover these expenses. As a result, workers will find that higher wages don't stretch further as the cost of essentials like food and housing also climbs. This undermines the intended benefits of wage increases and further strains businesses and employees.

NMBC believes blanket wage mandates are unnecessary and harmful to small businesses striving to grow and support their communities. HB 246 would do more harm than good, hurting New Mexico families and the small companies they rely on.

New Mexico can't afford more business mandates, so we urge you to vote **NO** on HB 246 Increase Minimum Wage.

Thank you for considering my comments,

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

Carla J. Sonntag
President and CEO