



**NEW MEXICO  
BUSINESS COALITION**

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

RE: Support **HB 248 Carrying a Firearm While Trafficking**

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 fully supports HB 248 Carrying a Firearm While Trafficking because it is a necessary step toward improving public safety in New Mexico. This bill establishes that anyone caught trafficking controlled substances, such as fentanyl, while in possession of a firearm will be guilty of a third-degree felony. Depending on the circumstances of the crime, offenders could face anywhere from three to six years in prison.

By enforcing stricter penalties, this legislation aims to deter individuals from engaging in drug trafficking while armed, reducing the likelihood of violent encounters. More importantly, it helps ensure that both dangerous criminals and deadly substances stay off our streets, making our communities safer.

For these reasons and others articulated by the bill sponsor, we strongly urge you to vote YES on HB 248 to support the safety and well-being of all New Mexicans.

Thank you for considering my comments,

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

**Carla J. Sonntag**  
President and CEO