



P.O. Box 95735  
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(505) 235-6323

RE: Support **HB 86 Human Trafficking Changes**

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 supports HB 86 Human Trafficking Changes, a critical piece of legislation aimed at strengthening our fight against human trafficking in New Mexico. This bill introduces essential amendments that will enhance our ability to protect victims, prosecute offenders, and prevent these heinous acts from occurring.

By removing the statute of limitations for human trafficking, this bill acknowledges the complex nature of these crimes, where victims often face years before they can come forward. This change is vital for justice to be served, regardless of when the crime was committed. Removing early prison release credits as an option for convicted traffickers also sends a clear message about the severity of these crimes.

Increasing the age of protection to eighteen years old will help in safeguarding our youth from sexual exploitation. Likewise, classifying human trafficking as racketeering opens up broader legal avenues for prosecution, allowing for more comprehensive approaches to dismantling these criminal networks.

Human trafficking is a scourge that requires our immediate and decisive action. HB 86 Human Trafficking Changes is a comprehensive approach that targets criminals and provides a framework for victim support and prevention. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill to make New Mexico a safer place for all its residents, particularly the most vulnerable.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote **"YES"** on HB 86 Human Trafficking Changes.

Thank you for considering my comments,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carla J. Sonntag", with a long, sweeping underline.

**Carla J. Sonntag**  
President and CEO