



**BETTER TOGETHER**  
NEW MEXICO

P.O. Box 95735,  
Albuquerque, NM 87199  
(505) 836-4223

RE: Support **HB 102 Violent Felonies for Meritorious Deduction**

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

Better Together New Mexico (BTNM) brings together hundreds of advocacy groups and thousands of New Mexicans statewide. Our mission is to unite New Mexicans through grassroots initiatives and work to positively shape the decisions that affect our lives, families, and communities.

BTNM supports HB 102 Violent Felonies for Meritorious Deduction. This bill reclassifies homicide by vehicle and great bodily harm by vehicle as serious violent offenses, limiting the ability of offenders to earn meritorious deductions from their sentences. This reform aims to ensure that those convicted of these crimes serve longer sentences, helping to reduce the risk to public safety and address the growing concern over vehicular violence in New Mexico.

By reclassifying homicide by vehicle and great bodily harm by vehicle as serious violent offenses, HB 102 targets crimes that cause significant harm to victims and communities. It ensures that individuals convicted of homicide or causing great bodily harm with a vehicle will spend more time in prison. It limits the opportunity for early release by reducing the number of meritorious deductions they can earn, preventing dangerous offenders from reentering society prematurely.

HB 102 removes ambiguity in sentencing by categorizing vehicular homicide and great bodily harm as serious violent offenses. This addresses the gap identified in *State v. Montano*, ensuring consistent sentencing and reinforcing the justice system's fairness. By treating these crimes as serious violent offenses, HB102 underscores the state's commitment to holding offenders accountable for their actions, reinforcing the message that such crimes will not be tolerated.

This is necessary to reduce crime and increase public safety in New Mexico. By ensuring that offenders convicted of vehicular homicide and great bodily harm serve longer sentences, the bill strengthens accountability, improves sentencing consistency, and helps protect communities from high-risk offenders.

We encourage you to support HB 102 Violent Felonies for Meritorious Deduction and vote 'YES' for its passage.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carla Sonntag'.

**Carla J. Sonntag**  
President & CEO