



BETTER TOGETHER
NEW MEXICO

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

RE: Support HB 104 Crimes Against Peace Officer Definitions

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 104 Crimes Against Peace Officer Definitions. This bill aims to strengthen protections for New Mexico's police officers who risk their lives to protect the rest of us. By revising the definition of "criminal offense" within the Victims of Crime Act (VCA) to include crimes against peace officers, this bill will enhance the state's commitment to addressing violent crimes and providing support to victims of these heinous acts. This change directly supports efforts to reduce crime and protect law enforcement officers who serve our communities.

The reclassification of offenses against peace officers, such as aggravated assault, battery, and aggravated battery, is an essential step toward acknowledging the unique risks law enforcement officers face in their line of duty. By expanding the definition of "criminal offense" to include these crimes, the bill ensures that peace officers who are victims of violent crimes are given the same consideration and support under the Victims of Crime Act as other crime victims.

Law enforcement officers play a crucial role in maintaining public safety, and crimes committed against them must be treated with the seriousness they deserve. By including these crimes under the VCA, the bill sends a clear message that crimes against peace officers will not be tolerated, enhancing accountability for individuals who commit acts of violence against those who protect our communities.

A clear legal framework that acknowledges the severity of these crimes helps reduce the likelihood of further violence and enhances the overall safety of communities. The bill supports law enforcement and broader efforts to reduce crime and protect all citizens, reinforcing the state's commitment to safety, justice, and accountability.

NMBC urges your support of HB 104 Crimes Against Peace Officer Definitions and asks you to vote YES.

Thank you for considering my comments,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Donstag".

Carla J. Sonntag
President and CEO