



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

RE: Support **HB 106 DWI Blood Testing**

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 strongly supports HB 106, which proposes critical updates to New Mexico's laws regarding driving under the influence (DUI) and chemical blood testing. The changes outlined in this bill are not only necessary but are long overdue, particularly in light of the evolving legal landscape around cannabis use.

The current DUI laws, which do not adequately account for the legalization of cannabis, are significantly outdated. This discrepancy hampers law enforcement's ability to effectively address impaired driving in a state where cannabis is now legal for recreational use. HB 106 wisely introduces a formal definition of cannabis for legal purposes, which is crucial for both law enforcement and judicial clarity. By updating terminology from "blood-alcohol" to "chemical blood" tests, this bill recognizes the broader scope of substances that can impair driving beyond just alcohol.

Another critical aspect of HB 106 is expanding the number of medical professionals authorized to withdraw blood for chemical testing. Including emergency medical technicians and certified phlebotomists ensures that testing can be conducted more efficiently and reduces the burden on laboratory technicians. This adjustment is significant in urgent situations where timely testing can be pivotal for public safety and legal accuracy.

This bill will not only align our legal system with contemporary issues like cannabis legalization but will also enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement in ensuring our roads remain safe.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to vote 'YES' on HB 106 DWI Blood Testing.

Thank you for considering my comments,

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

Carla J. Sonntag
President & CEO