



BETTER TOGETHER
NEW MEXICO

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

RE: Support **HB 280 Additional Violent Felonies**

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 fully supports HB 280, Additional Violent Felonies, as a crucial measure to strengthen New Mexico's criminal laws. This bill expands the list of violent felonies and enforces tougher penalties on repeat offenders, ensuring that those convicted of three separate violent felonies receive mandatory life imprisonment with no possibility of parole, except for geriatric or medical reasons.

By reinforcing sentencing laws, HB 280 prioritizes public safety, keeping habitual violent criminals off our streets and protecting communities across the state. This legislation sends a clear message that repeat violent offenders will face serious consequences.

For these reasons and others articulated by the bill sponsor, we strongly urge you to vote YES on HB 280 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 & CEO