



**BETTER TOGETHER**  
NEW MEXICO

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

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

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 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 respectfully ask you to vote 'YES' on HB 86 Human Trafficking Changes.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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

**Carla J. Sonntag**  
President & CEO