



News Release

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Chamber's 2016 Legislative Package Focuses on Jobs, Education and Public Safety

Jobs, education and public safety are the focuses of the 2016 Legislative package approved today by the board of directors of the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce. This focus complements and extends the Chamber's efforts over the last several years to build a more diverse economy for our state.

Chamber president and CEO Terri Cole described the package as "good and solid." She said the Chamber is following a significant number of bills important to the business community and will continue its usual active presence in Santa Fe.

"We are very active in the months leading up to the start of the session and throughout the process," she said. "We are already seeing a lot of activity in the House and there is a great deal of business-friendly legislation which can be passed despite our revenue challenges. What's important is that we prioritize well and spend the money we do have in ways that make us competitive and keep us attractive to business."

Despite less 'new money' than previously anticipated, Chamber Vice Chair of Business Advocacy Sherman McCorkle said, "There's an incredible number of non-monetary bills that are of keen interest to the business community in the areas of jobs, education and public safety.

The Chamber's lobbying efforts will focus on support of legislation in such areas as: maintaining LEDA funding at \$50m, creation of a Rapid Workforce Development Fund, Capital Outlay reform, adjunct teacher licensure, ending social promotion, two-tiered driver's licenses, expanding the "3 strikes" law, and a Constitutional Amendment which would provide for denial of bail for dangerous criminals, among many others.

To see a full list of the Chamber 2016 Legislative initiatives, please see attached 2016 Legislative Card and 2016 Legislative Narrative.

ATTACHMENTS: 2016 Legislative Card/2016 Legislative Narrative

About the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce mission is to make our community a place where businesses can grow and prosper, where people want to raise their families and where tourists want to visit. As the voice of business since 1917, we envision New Mexicans living in safe neighborhoods, working in rewarding careers at thriving businesses, while their children attend great schools, and enjoy their leisure time in one of the most beautiful regions on Earth. More information about the Chamber is accessible online at www.abqchamber.com.

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