

Agenda for Jobs, Education, Public Safety

Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce

52nd Legislature, Second Session

Preface to Legislative Proposals

The Greater Albuquerque Chamber's legislative agenda for 2016 focuses on jobs, education and public safety. This focus complements and extends our efforts over the last several years to build a more diverse economy for our state. Because of progress made by both the Administration and the Legislature, we're beginning to see a rising tide that can, if we continue to be attentive to our state's needs, create badly needed jobs for New Mexicans and grow our private sector.

Let's take a look at some of the successes. The Greater Albuquerque area, which is 47% of the state's economy based on employment, is leading the way in job creation. Both companies new to New Mexico as well as existing enterprises are investing and growing. The pipeline for new recruits to come to our state is full. The level of business taxes - particularly in manufacturing - is now among the lowest, not the highest, in our region. We are gaining a reputation of being a state that welcomes business. We've found the necessary resources to develop a meaningful closing fund and to adequately support job training. Despite having to overcome a recession-induced budget deficit and falling revenues from oil and gas production, the state budget is balanced and retains a prudent reserve. Regulatory practices have been streamlined. Successful marketing has boosted tourism and the associated jobs it brings.

However, there are remaining challenges that could stem the tide of progress. First, our economy is not yet diverse enough as the current budget difficulties due to low energy prices illustrate. We expect the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group's new revenue forecast will likely change the revenue forecast, which will result in changes to our recommendations. Our state budget and job picture is heavily reliant on the energy sector. We need more than just a robust energy sector to have a resilient economy that can flourish despite the expected booms and busts of energy production.

Other issues requiring attention start with the need for meaningful small business tax reform. We must also eliminate the ugly face of violent crime and make New Mexico safer for our children. Businesses value a high quality of life when deciding where to locate or expand. And, we must finally turn the corner on stubborn opposition to education reform that's robbing children of the opportunity to achieve higher levels of education and employment. Also, we must channel the scarce capital investment dollars the state has into projects of real significance that will make a difference in terms of economic growth. Moreover, we need to retain the progress made in appropriating adequate money to the closing and job training funds. Finally, we need to enact right to work legislation that further signals to business that we not only have a qualified and willing workforce but that it is a competitive workforce as well.

As we in the business community know so well, progress is only made when there is continued effort to improve and solve problems that otherwise would undermine success. It is good to celebrate our successes. It is best to create a future of even greater promise.

STATE FY17 BUDGET

SUPPORT

Consensus Revenue Estimating Group projection for \$232M (3.7% growth) in “New Money” until a final projection agreement is reached.*

* The New Mexico Consensus Revenue and Estimating Group consists of professional economists at the Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD), the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) working together to produce the consensus revenue estimate. The Group has already decreased their projection from \$293M in August 2015 to \$232M in December 2015. They are currently meeting again and will announce their updated projection next week. The forecast is likely to change, which would of course result in changes to our recommended funding levels of key programs and initiatives. The Chamber does not support efforts by the Legislature to allocate new spending on a contingency basis, which would only make funds available if certain revenue thresholds are met. We recommend instead simply lowering the revenue forecast and spending within the projected amount of new money. The chamber supports maintaining the integrity of the consensus revenue forecasting process. Contingent spending, we believe, overrides the effective and well-established process for determining available new dollars to spend.

Restraint in government growth (recurring expenditures) leading to a predictable, stable and welcoming business environment

In government as in business, and even in our personal lives, successful budget management calls for restraint in spending and prioritization of available dollars. No matter how prudent, there will never be enough money to do everything we want. This is never more true than in government budgeting. The Chamber supports efforts by the Administration to “live within the budget” through prudent agency prioritization and management of funds. The Legislature too will have to make tough choices by supporting funding for these priorities that benefit the state and its citizens as a whole. We urge both the Administration and Legislature to focus the use of available funds on job creation, education and public safety.

Administration and LFC recommended reserves of about 8%

Both the Administration and the LFC have put forward budgets of almost \$6.5B though there are some differences in how the money should be spent. These budget recommendations allow for about 8% in minimum reserves, which are the same as last year and are still somewhat higher than in other states. Additionally, the state has maintained strong reserves thus ensuring that state services will not be compromised should revenue projections decrease. The Chamber applauds both the Administration and LFC for their respective efforts to continue to protect New Mexico’s reserves while at the same time increasing spending at about 3.7% targeted to the continuing improvement of education and the state’s overall economic well-being.

Administration recommendation of \$14.5M for targeted compensation increases in order to retain and recruit certain state employees including corrections officers, child abuse caseworkers, public health workers and state police officers

The Administration has recommended \$14.5M for targeted compensation increases in order to retain and recruit certain state employees including correction officers, child abuse workers and public health

workers as well as to implement the third and final phase of a planned increase in compensation for commissioned officers at the Department of Public Safety. We support the focus on those employees working in critically important positions that ensure the safety of all New Mexico citizens including our children. In order to retain and increase the numbers of employees in these critical positions the state must be able to be competitive in the area of compensation.

Administration recommendation to raise minimum starting teacher salaries by 5.9% from 34k to 36k and LFC recommendation to raise minimum starting teacher salaries from \$34k to \$35k

The Administration has recommended an increase in minimum Level 1 teachers' salaries from \$34K to \$36K and the LFC recommended a raise for minimum starting teacher salaries from \$34K to \$35K. This will impact an estimated 3,692 teachers in FY17. The ability to attract new qualified teachers to New Mexico is critical to ensuring student success. The Chamber supports raising Level 1 teachers' salaries in order to remain competitive with surrounding states.

OPPOSE

Any tax increases or reduction of existing incentives

While the state's economy slowly continues to recover, employment levels are still below pre-recessionary levels and the impact of federal sequestration continues as does the continued impact of falling of oil and gas prices. We must strive in our efforts to grow the economy and create new jobs. The solution can only be found in stimulating private sector growth. Tax increases do exactly the opposite by discouraging businesses from investing and consumers from spending. For this reason we oppose any legislation that would increase taxes on the business community. Raising taxes is clearly the wrong direction for our state and the Chamber will vigorously oppose any such tax increase proposals.

Any use of Permanent Fund for purposes not intended

The Chamber remains adamantly opposed to any effort to tap into the state's Permanent Funds. These funds were constitutionally established to support the beneficiaries identified in our constitution and to serve as an endowment should our extractive minerals disappear some day. Any effort to amend the constitution that would result in tapping into these funds for purposes not currently specified in the constitution or at distribution rates that would undermine the long-term solvency of these funds must not be allowed to go forward. Additionally, difficult economic times sometimes result in "creative" approaches to state finances that, in the long-term, would be bad fiscal policy for the state. We oppose any such proposals as well.

Reinstatement of Gross Receipts Tax on food sales

As noted above, we remain committed in our opposition to any general fund tax increase including the restoration of the GRT on food sales. In 2004, the Legislature repealed the gross receipts tax (GRT) on most food items purchased by consumers for home consumption. Since this repeal would have caused a loss of revenue to local governments, the Legislature at the time enacted a "hold harmless" provision that essentially reimbursed them for the loss.

In the 2013 tax reform package, the Legislature decided to phase out the hold harmless reimbursements over a 17-year period and to allow municipalities the option of increasing the local GRT 3/8 of one percent (at 1/8 increments). The municipalities were opposed to this phase out and remain so. The Municipal League of New Mexico opposed the phase-out of the hold harmless distribution contained

in the 2013 session House Bill 641 and has in the past supported legislation that would return food to the gross receipts tax base for local gross receipts tax rates, including the 1.225 % as well as supporting an increase in the Working Family Tax Credit, a repeal of the Hold Harmless Distribution in one year instead of 17 and a reduction in the state tax rate from 5.125 % to 5 %.

While the Chamber understands the League’s position and its concern for its members’ budgetary issues, we believe the Legislature’s tax reform actions were fair and balanced and have provided municipalities with the means to largely offset the loss of hold harmless reimbursements. Moreover, the long phase-in period should allow ample time for municipalities to make gradual budget adjustments and to benefit from revenue growth. In addition, placing any GRT on food will disproportionately affect those on fixed incomes and working families ineligible to receive government assistance.

Across-the-board compensation increases for all state employees

The proposed budget recommendations from the LFC include across the board compensation increases for all state employees. The funding is simply not available to provide increases for every worker. The Chamber opposes any effort by the Legislature to add funding for an across-the-board increase for all state employees during the budgetary process. Given the fiscal situation this year, any funds provided for across-the-board raises would require huge shifts in dollars away from other critical needs.

CAPITAL FY17 BUDGET - \$149M available for legislatively-allocated capital projects

SUPPORT

Focus on infrastructure (Roads, Water, Buildings, etc.)

The Chamber supports a targeted approach to addressing the major infrastructure needs of New Mexico such as roads, water and buildings. The reality is we need to focus our limited capital outlay resources on projects that will enhance and grow the state’s economy.

Large-Scale projects locals cannot afford themselves

When identifying and proposing capital outlay projects, we must recognize that there are counties and communities that do not have the resources to address major infrastructure needs. Water-infrastructure is a prime example wherein a number of communities are facing needs not just for economic reasons, but in some cases basic survival needs for the community. It is incumbent upon government to identify and prioritize these needs.

Capital Outlay Reform legislation driven by the legislature and the Governor, which is transparent, objective and primarily focuses on large-scale, infrastructure projects

The Chamber has pushed for capital outlay reform for many years. Rather than focus on major projects that would benefit the state as a whole and improve the state’s economic development opportunities, capital outlay has tended to go to small projects located in each legislator’s district. While this is understandable given that legislators are representing their constituents, it fails to recognize that a “high tide lifts all boats.” We strongly support efforts by the Governor and the Legislature to work together to identify the larger capital outlay needs of the state and to enact legislation that would reform the current capital outlay process to the benefit of New Mexico and its citizens.

Administration and Jobs Council recommendation of \$5M in capital outlay for new Pre-K classrooms

We strongly support the Administration's request for \$5M in capital outlay for new Pre-K classrooms. These funds are needed to ensure that there are enough available classrooms for the growing number of children attending Pre-K programs. The Chamber has long supported Pre-K believing that these programs are invaluable for ensuring that young children are well prepared when they begin kindergarten. Children who are ill-prepared for kindergarten are more likely to be ill-prepared for first and subsequent grades.

Administration recommendation of \$10M in capital outlay to top off LEDA to \$50M

LEDA, the state's version of a closing fund has been the leading economic development tool for the state. Investment in local infrastructure leads to new investment and new jobs throughout the state. However, due to the New Mexico anti-donation clause, many communities are unable to compete with other states that can offer cash incentives to recruit new businesses. Arizona, Texas and Oklahoma all have "deal closing" funds, which are used when a business can demonstrate additional funding is necessary to close a competitive gap relative to other states also competing for the same economic development project. In New Mexico, such funds would have to operate within the confines of LEDA, JTIP or another program that requires substantive contributions of the recipient company. LEDA is the authorizing legislation that requires job retention or creation when state dollars are provided to local jurisdictions to secure an economic development project. There is a twofold benefit from LEDA funds of both capital investment and job creation. It should be noted that LEDA statutes provide security for governmental aid to address losses to the state where the funds were not attached to any sort of claw back provision.

The Chamber strongly supports providing \$10M in capital outlay funds to top off the LEDA Fund at \$50M. The state needs to ensure that the fund starts off each fiscal year at a regularly set amount. If this funding consistency is not maintained it becomes difficult to use the fund effectively as a marketing tool. It is difficult to market something that fluctuates.

TAX POLICY

SUPPORT

HB184 (Rep. Sarah Maestas Barnes) PIT Tax Deduction for Small Business owners

The Chamber supports legislation that would provide for Personal Income Tax (PIT) abatement for small businesses. Essentially, the deduction would start at 100% for the smallest businesses and would gradually phase out for larger businesses. It is expected that a ceiling target in the \$200,000 to \$350,000 range for the final phase-out would be included. Small business income would include partnerships, S corps and sole proprietorships, as long as the taxpayer is actively involved using federal law definitions for that. It takes time for just launched businesses to show a profit. Some measure of tax relief in the early years when small businesses are struggling would help ensure their success, which benefits the state in terms of economic development and job creation. Most small businesses file taxes under their personal income tax, hence the need for relief in the form of a PIT abatement. The basic structure is a deduction from taxable income of a portion of active, small business income.

SB16 (Sen. William Burt and Rep. David Adkins) Uniformed Service Retiree Tax Credit

The Uniformed Service Retiree Tax Credit provides an income tax deduction for certain uniformed service retirees and their spouses. The Chamber supports this legislation. The purpose of this deduction is to encourage uniformed service retirees to make New Mexico the retirees' state of residency and to utilize the expertise of uniformed service retirees in New Mexico's workforce and business community.

Technology Research Collaborative at \$1.5M

We support the funding request of \$1.5M to the Technology Research Collaborative. The Chamber actively supported passage of the enabling language that created the collaborative. This year we believe it is imperative that the Legislature fund the collaborative in order to provide dollars to enterprising projects with commercial potential that result from the partnership of researchers at New Mexico's laboratories, universities and the private sector. High tech businesses and the jobs they create are critical to the future economic success of New Mexico and are most likely to be successful when developed through the partnerships supported and funded through the collaborative.

OPPOSE

Unitary Tax

The Chamber has long opposed Unitary Corporation combined tax reporting. This legislation will require unitary corporations (related corporations in the same line(s) of business) to file New Mexico corporate income tax returns on a combined basis. Such corporations would no longer be allowed to file on a federal consolidated basis. It would increase state corporate income taxes for a number of in-state businesses with out-of-state affiliates. They also would not be able to file as stand-alone corporations, which would also result in a tax increase.

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION

SUPPORT

As noted on our Legislative Card, the Chamber has taken a three-prong approach to improving the economy of our state as well as the quality of life of our citizens. Education continues to be a significant priority. If our children cannot read, they cannot learn, dooming them to a life of future hardship. If they do not remain in school and obtain an education, they have little opportunity for meaningful employment. We owe our children, who are the future of this state, a quality education system that focuses on ensuring they can read by third grade, that they must remain in school for their own sake, and that they will have quality teachers who will provide them with the finest education possible while firing their imaginations and their desire to learn. The Chamber supports the below listed legislation believing it will make a huge difference in improving the education of our children and the future economic well-being of our state.

HB67 (Rep. Monica Youngblood) Ending Social Promotion

The Chamber continues in its strong commitment to ensuring that New Mexico's children are reading at grade level by the end of the third grade. Given that a leading indicator of whether children will succeed in school is their proficiency in reading at the end of the third grade, it is imperative that we enact, as introduced, HB41 sponsored by Representative Monica Youngblood. This legislation is intended to

ensure that all students, parents and teachers are given the tools necessary to succeed in reading. Early screening assessments will assist teachers in identifying students struggling to read, and professional development and support will empower teachers to provide early intervention to assist children in need of additional support so that they may reach grade level proficiency. Additionally, parents will be provided with strategies to help their children become better readers.

For those children who may need an additional year to acquire the necessary and critical reading skills, intervention and retention are also options. For students with special circumstances, there will be alternative criteria for determining proficiency.

At the end of the day, however, we must recognize that it is abjectly unfair to our children to promote them to the fourth grade if they are not ready. Instead, we must ensure that these children are given an additional school year with emphasis on helping them to acquire the necessary and critical reading skills that will determine their entire future

(Rep. Jimmy Hall and Sen. Sue Wilson Beffort) Expansion of Anti-Truancy Programs by establishing intervention and suspension of driver's license or permit for habitually truant high school students

The Chamber has long supported addressing truancy issues recognizing that students who are absent from the classroom are much less likely to graduate from high school. We strongly urge passage of this legislation sponsored by Senator Sue Wilson Beffort and Representative Jimmie Hall.

For example, during the 2012-2013 school year, over 48,633 of New Mexico's students had more than 10 unexcused absences within the school year. That is a huge number of young people who are likely to eventually drop out of school and face living in poverty. It is incumbent upon all of us to support dropout prevention and truancy reduction in an effort to increase graduation rates, decrease the number of dropouts and to prepare students for success in college or in a career. Otherwise, we are essentially dooming the future of our state's most valuable asset, its children.

This legislation will provide habitually truant students with multiple opportunities and supports to correct their behavior while also holding them accountable for their attendance choices. If a high school student continues to habitually miss school, his or her driver's license or permit will be suspended. It should be noted that driver's license or driver's permit suspensions are an option only when all else has failed and the student chooses to remain a truant despite every opportunity to modify their choices. We do not see this as a punitive measure, but rather as an intervention to motivate students to make better choices that will prepare them for a successful and meaningful future.

HB145 (Rep. James Conrad) and SB114 (Senator Ron Griggs) Adjunct Teacher Licensure provides for content-experts to teach in NM public schools on part-time basis

New Mexico has many individuals, whether from our national laboratories or businesses throughout the state, who possess solid content knowledge and expertise in numerous fields. This legislation allows content experts to be licensed to teach in our public schools on a part-time basis. Strict criteria have been set to ensure that only fully qualified individuals could be hired as adjunct teachers. The Chamber supports this legislation, which is currently being drafted and will be sponsored in the House by Representative Conrad James and in the Senate by Senator Ron Griggs. Districts would have the flexibility to meet their staffing needs and students would have increased access to content experts who will broaden their knowledge

On-Site Family Resource Centers

In 2003, the Legislature passed major education reform in New Mexico. In an effort to provide support for disadvantaged children and their families, the original legislation included a section called the Family and Youth Resource Act. The Act would have allowed for establishment of a center in schools in which 80% of the students were eligible for the free or reduced-fee lunch program. The center would serve as an intermediary for students and their families at public schools to access social and health care services as well as access to other community resources. Eligible schools could apply for grants to provide support for their center. The Chamber supports another look at the option of Family Resource Centers by the Legislature. This approach has been extremely successful in other states where similar models were developed.

HB41 (Rep. Bill Rehm) School Superintendent Contract Criteria provides for prevention of large settlements to departing superintendents

This legislation would establish school superintendent employee contract criteria between local school boards and superintendents, assistant superintendents, or any public school employee whose annual salary exceeds \$150,000 and exempt them from the School Personnel Act. Given the recent dissolution of several school superintendent contracts resulting in large settlements to those superintendents and the subsequent large cost to taxpayers, the Chamber strongly supports this legislation to set minimum required provisions for employment contracts and termination of those contracts as well as placing limits on allowable severance pay.

HB127 (Rep. David Atkins) Background checks

After a situation developed recently related to a deputy superintendent at APS, it was discovered that this individual had not undergone a background check. Additionally, some additional 2000 other district staffers also had never undergone a background check. While a number of these individuals were employed by APS prior to the requirement, this situation should be remedied. These are individuals who come into contact or interact with children. Rep. Adkins HB127 would amend the school code to require that all public school district employees provide proof of satisfactory clearance of a fingerprint-based background check. The Chamber strongly urges legislators to pass this legislation. The safety of all New Mexico's children should be foremost in our minds.

Expanding effective school choice options for families, especially for access to high performing charter schools

The Chamber encourages the Legislature to identify and expand effective school choice options for families. Access to high performing charter schools should be a priority.

Below the Line funding of \$154.9M to include the following requests:

The Chamber has long supported identifying and giving more financial support to struggling schools which we believe is the only way to help students in those schools reach proficiency. Initiatives funded "below the line" mean this funding is not distributed through the funding formula. Rather, these funds are used in a more targeted fashion to reach those schools and students most in need. Additionally, these funds require a higher degree of accountability in terms of results. The Chamber supports "below the line" funding, especially for the purposes outlined in these proposals.

Administration recommendation of \$25M for New Mexico Reads to Lead (reading coaches, interventionists, parent training, teacher supports) and LFC recommendation of \$21M

The Chamber strongly supports the comparable recommendations of the Administration and LFC in funding for the New Mexico Reads to Lead program and appreciates their recognition of the importance of early childhood reading. The ability to read well at the third grade level is a barometer for success in not only a child's remaining education years, but throughout their life. This funding will provide for reading coaches, and professional development for teachers, administrators, reading coaches and parents as well as interventions for struggling students. Reading K-3 short-cycle assessment systems will be available in both English and Spanish. It has been shown that districts that participated in the Reads to Lead program increased the percentage of students proficient in reading by 7.8 percentage points with some districts experiencing double-digit growth.

LFC recommendation of \$32.2M and Administration recommendation of \$27.2M in below the line funding for Kindergarten-Three-Plus

Funding for K-3, which is strongly supported by the Chamber, provides for extension of the school year for K-3 students with an emphasis on literacy and math common core standards instruction. We support this effort to provide K-3 students with a greater opportunity to focus on improving their reading skills as well as additional classroom time to work on other common core education areas. At the end of the day, every dollar spent and opportunity provided to focus on reading and other basic core curriculum subjects during these early primary years will pay off with multiple dividends in later school years.

LFC recommendation of \$24.5M and Administration recommendation of \$28M for Pre-Kindergarten

Both the Administration and the LFC have recommended significant funding for Pre-K. The Chamber concurs with and supports their recommendations. This funding, which will provide access to all districts and charter schools that have requested funding for Pre-K programs, has proven both popular and successful in improving both literacy and numeracy. The value of PreK and its importance in determining a successful long term student outcome can never be overstated and it is critical that all districts and schools within those districts have an equal opportunity to meet the needs of Pre-K aged children in their respective communities. The Chamber continues to strongly support Pre-K initiatives.

New Mexico Graduates Now to support increased graduation rates, decreased drop outs at \$4M and LFC recommendation of \$3.5M

The Chamber strongly supports provision of these dollars, which will provide funding for expansion of regional early college high school start-ups, access for all tenth graders to take the PSAT, additional AP teacher professional development, online AP programs and test fee waivers for lower income students and a myriad of other programs that will enhance our students education making them better prepared for their final high school years as well as college.

Administration recommendation for continued expansion of Advanced Placement programs in NM at \$2M

Under No Child Left Behind, states received annual funding to pay for AP exam costs for low-income students. The new Every Student Succeeds Act does not guarantee such funding for states every year. The Administration request ensures that all New Mexico students can continue to access AP courses through expanded state funding so that our low-income students never have to worry about exam fee costs. Necessary additional AP teacher training would also be covered.

Interventions which continue turnaround programs, drop out and truancy prevention coaches at Administration request of \$13M and LFC recommendation of \$13M

The turnaround programs are a priority for both the administration and LFC because they are delivering results. The Chamber strongly supports these programs for the same reason-they work.

Administration recommendation of \$3M and LFC recommendation of \$3M for STEM Initiative (STEM teachers' professional development and stipends)

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math commonly known as STEM are critical core areas in our children's education. If New Mexico's students are to compete in the workforce, they must be well prepared in all the STEM fields. Our state and even the nation as a whole lag behind other countries in these core areas and we must strive to ensure that funding for STEM is maintained. The Chamber strongly supports funding for STEM, which provides for the STEM Teacher Initiative that focuses on improving math and science education in New Mexico as well as providing for professional development opportunities for STEM teachers.

Teacher/School Leader Programs, including pay for performance at \$15M

The Executive requests fully funding the demand from the current fiscal year and allows for a moderate expansion of the program in the next year to allow for districts and charter schools to recognize our best teachers and school leaders.

Top 50 Teachers in NM (\$500k) and Exemplary Teacher Residency (\$1M) which rewards and recruits exemplary teachers

The top fifty teachers classified as exemplary on their state issued evaluations would be given a \$10,000 stipend under this proposal. The Chamber supports this approach as a means to congratulate those top teachers in the state who have successfully provided a superior education to their students and as an encouragement for all teachers to strive to be exemplary. At the end of the day, the quality of the teacher in the classroom is a key determinant of the future success of our children.

OPPOSE

Moratorium on Charter Schools

Charter schools have been effective in providing a quality education for many students. Efforts should be directed at providing support for additional charter schools rather than in trying prevent more from being opened.

HIGHER EDUCATION

SUPPORT

HB17 (Rep. Stephanie Garcia Richard) Veteran Definition to ensure in-state tuition benefits for veterans and their families

The Chamber supports HB17, which clarifies the term veteran for in-state tuition purposes to mean a New Mexico resident who is a citizen of the United States and was regularly enlisted, drafted, inducted or commissioned in the Armed Forces of the United States and was accepted for an assignment to active duty in the Armed Forces, or an individual who served in the Armed Forces Reserves or National Guard for a minimum of six consecutive years or a member of the United State Public Health Service commissioned corps or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration commissioned officers corps who served in that capacity while on active duty in the defense of the United States. However, no individual who was separated from such service under circumstances leading to a dishonorable discharge is eligible. The Chamber believes that those men and women who have served our country and meet the above stated criteria deserve our support and the opportunity to further their education through the in-state tuition program.

(Senator Pete Campos) to provide expanded financial support to minority doctoral individuals

This legislation addresses a necessary language change in the loan program language for minority students in a doctoral program. Current language states “loan for service” when it should read “loan for payment”.

Budget request of \$400K for staff retention and recruitment

The Chamber supports the Department’s request for \$400K for staff retention and recruitment. For the Department to properly meet its goals and objectives, existing staff need to be retained and additional staff need to be added.

Budget request of \$1.35M to increase financial aid to child welfare, teachers, medical students and nursing

This request would provide for Department student loans to individuals in the higher education child welfare program, teaching program, medical school and nursing program. Given the state’s needs in these program areas, the Chamber supports the budget request for student loans.

OPPOSE

Efforts to specify funding formula mechanics

The Chamber opposes efforts to specify funding formula mechanics. The Department has collaborated with the stakeholders to stabilize the funding formula mechanics. Passage of this legislation would result in the parties involved having to start all over again from scratch. The Chamber opposes the legislation given that the mechanics are working for those involved and affected.

Efforts to prematurely change transfer articulation policies

This addresses the issue of transfer of classes from one institution of higher learning to another such

institution. The Department has worked hard to ensure that the class course credit will transfer and be accepted with full credit given to the student. The bill would require the Department to promulgate guidelines for articulation, transfer and dual credit by August 1, 2016. Additionally, the legislation would impose penalties for failure to meet the imposed deadline. The Chamber opposes this bill given that the Department has been working to improve relationships between the affected parties and has made significant gains in this area.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

SUPPORT

HB128 (Rep. Carl Trujillo) Broadband Tax Incentive Legislation

This legislation would provide for an exemption from the gross receipts tax for fuel and construction services to construct broadband telecommunications facilities. It also would provide for a similar exemption from the compensating tax for broadband network facilities. The Chamber supports efforts to improve broadband availability in order to make the state more competitive for new and growing businesses.

HB170 (Rep. Larry Larranaga) Jobs Council recommendation of an appropriation of \$950K in funding to study broadband infrastructure needs

The Chamber supports this request for funding to contract for a study for a comprehensive broadband infrastructure plan and to implement adequate broadband services to high-priority, underserved rural areas. Broadband availability is integral to economic development and the creation of jobs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORT

Inherent in the future well-being of New Mexico is the creation of jobs. In order to create jobs, the state must have an environment that supports existing businesses and their expansion while also attracting new businesses to the state. These need to be quality jobs. We need to focus our efforts and resources on those types of businesses in which we excel including energy development, tourism, trade and exports, high tech as well as others. We must also focus on ensuring, to the degree that is possible, that all the communities and areas throughout our state can participate in and benefit from a healthy economy. For this reason we support the legislation listed below.

Right-to-Work

The Chamber has long been a proponent of right-to-work legislation and is 100% behind legislation that will protect New Mexico's workers. We believe that it is commonsense and a bedrock principle that people should not have to pay dues or fees to any organization that they do not wish to. It is a basic "right to choose" issue. New Mexico workers should be able to choose whether or not they want to join a union or pay union dues.

In a case currently before the United States Supreme Court brought by teachers in California opposing mandatory dues payment to the union, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy noted, “The union is basically making the teachers compelled-riders on issues with which they strongly disagree.”

New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez in putting right-to-work on the call for this session stated: “Adopting a right-to-work law would make the state more competitive when it comes to attracting businesses.” The Chamber agrees that the failure to have right-to-work laws in place has hurt our economy by making it difficult to compete with our neighboring states in attracting new businesses to New Mexico and in retaining or expanding those businesses.

HB63 (Rep. Dennis Roche) No indemnity/medical benefits under workman's compensation if worker's injury or death resulted from alcohol/drug use at the time

For the last several years, the Chamber has supported legislation that would disqualify a worker from all worker’s comp benefits payable, indemnity or medical, when the worker’s injury or death was a result of intoxication from alcohol or drugs in any degree. Disqualification would also occur if the worker refused to submit to or provide the results of a post-accident test for alcohol or drugs. This is a safety issue not only for the worker, but also for those working with and around that worker. Nor do we believe that employers should be required to pay for an injury or death for which the worker is responsible due to drug or alcohol use. We urge support for HB63 sponsored by Representative Dennis Roche.

HB194 (Rep. Cathrynn Brown) "Employer Responsibility" legislation for worker's compensation

The Chamber supports legislation to clarify worker’s compensation language following a court order regarding payment of wage replacement benefits.

HB195 (Rep. Randal Crowder) Clarifying workers compensation that employers and insurance companies don't have to pay for employee medical cannabis use

This legislation is intended to clarify worker’s compensation language related to employers being held responsible for payment for cannabis for employees who have received a medical marijuana card. The Chamber supports the legislation.

HB200 (Rep. Nora Espinoza) Fix Prevailing Wage

During the 2009 session, SB33 was passed changing the way in which prevailing wage was determined. Prior to that time, prevailing wage had been set based on a survey of both union and non-union construction contracts. Currently, as result of enactment of SB33, prevailing wage is determined solely by union collective bargaining agreements. Given that 92% of the construction industry is non-union, the resulting prevailing wage is now determined by only 8% of the construction industry. This has resulted in significantly higher costs to taxpayers and business stretching already tight budgets even further. The Chamber supports a solution through legislation to rectify this situation.

This legislation will carve educational institutions and roads out of prevailing wage. It will also take us back to a survey of union and non-union contractors as was originally done and takes a weighted average to come up with prevailing wage. This legislation will also ensure that wages will not exceed federal Davis Bacon wages.

State preemption of local employment law

While we generally support the right of local communities to pass laws and ordinances specific to their

jurisdictions, it has become apparent that often these actions can have a negative impact on businesses as it relates to employee relations. This can become even more burdensome when businesses have multiple locations. We support legislation that would prohibit local government entities from adopting ordinances related to employee wages and benefits, which can impose mandates on businesses that are unworkable or fiscally problematic while having the effect of discouraging businesses from locating to these communities and even forcing them to relocate to other communities. No one benefits under these conditions.

HB140 (Rep. Larry Larranaga) Natural gas public utility infrastructure expansion

This legislation if enacted, would promote economic development in the state by providing natural gas service to both unserved and underserved areas thus attracting and retaining business and residential customers. It would also encourage new and diverse businesses and industries that rely on natural gas to begin new businesses or expand existing businesses in New Mexico. The bill sets requirements for the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) to adopt rules to implement provisions of the act within 180 days from the effective date of the act. The Chamber encourages legislators to support this economically important legislation.

Unemployment Insurance Legislation that will not have a negative consequence for business owners or risk the solvency of the fund

The Chamber will support unemployment insurance legislation that will help relieve the burden on businesses who were hit hard while protecting other businesses from being hurt, and that will protect the solvency of the fund.

SB92 (Senator Ted Barela) Administration and Jobs Council recommendation to create Rapid Workforce Deployment and fund it at \$1.25M

The Chamber urges support for passage of SB92 which would provide funding to the State's higher education institutions for training of potential employees for not only existing employers in the State but also for those employers who have chosen to relocate to New Mexico and will be hiring employees residing in the State. Every tool the State can provide to encourage expansion or relocation of business to New Mexico is critical to the State's economic well-being.

Administration recommendation of \$500K and LFC recommendation of \$500K for New Mexico MainStreet program

The Chamber supports the recommendations of the LFC and the administration for recurring funding for New Mexico MainStreet programs. In the past year in New Mexico, MainStreet programs resulted in a gain of 118 new businesses and saw a net increase of 612 new jobs. MainStreet Districts also saw 196 private sector building rehabilitations and more than \$9.8 million in private reinvestment making it one of the most cost effective job creation programs in New Mexico.

Jobs Council recommendation of appropriation to \$2M for The New Mexico Partnership

The New Mexico Partnership is contracted by the New Mexico Economic Development Department to be the one stop shop for locating and expanding businesses in New Mexico. The Partnership offers a coordinated approach and a formal network of economic developers to simplify the site selection process by providing information and support regarding incentives, workforce training programs, and real estate sites and buildings.

(Rep. Don Tripp and Sen. Mary Kay Papen) Jobs Council recommendation for \$2.25M to fund the Economic Development Grant Act

Economic development and growth are essential to New Mexico's future. The Chamber supports fully funding this program which was enacted last session. The purpose of the Economic Development Grant Act is to provide matching state grants to local and regional economic development agencies to expand the economic development and job-creation capacities of those agencies through employment of economic development professionals. The "economic development grant program" was created in the Economic Development Department with oversight to be provided by the Economic Development Commission and administrative assistance to be handled by the Economic Development Department. The Program will allow grants of up to fifty percent of the cost to the agencies to hire economic development professionals in order to expand economic development or job creation efforts in the local or regional areas of the state.

Administration and Jobs Council recommendation of \$8M non-recurring and \$2M recurring for JTIP

The Administration and Jobs Council have recommended funding of \$8M non-recurring and \$2M recurring for JTIP. The Economic Development Department (EDD) reports that funds for this program came dangerously close to being exhausted in the last fiscal year when the program ran out of money in February. However, due to language incorporated during the last session, the program was able to access funding prior to the start of the next fiscal year. JTIP is a critical recruiting tool in the state second only to LEDA, the state's closing fund. It is recognized as one of the top five workforce development programs in the country. The Chamber urges the Legislature to support JTIP at the recommended level.

OPPOSE

Minimum Wage Increase

The Chamber's position on a state-wide minimum wage increase is that if such an increase is passed, we support ensuring that the resulting increase will not make New Mexico less competitive than surrounding states in the region and that it is written in such a way as to protect small businesses. We do oppose annual indexing increases.

TOURISM

SUPPORT

Administration and Jobs Council recommendation of \$2.3M

The Chamber strongly supports the Administration and Jobs Council recommendation for \$2.3M for the Tourism Department. Tourism has been major factor in improving the state's economy. From 2010 through 2014, tourism in New Mexico has significantly increased as a direct result of the actions of the Tourism Department. All domestic visitors increased by 9.7%. Accommodation sector taxable gross receipts increased 17.4%. Accommodation sector gross receipts taxes increased 20.7%. Hotel and motel lodging receipts increased 15.3%. Leisure and hospitality jobs increased 8.4%. Tourism sales in New Mexico increased 16.8%. Given the importance of the tourism industry to New Mexico's economy we

wonder why the LFC cut funding for the Tourism Department. While the falling price of oil and gas has hurt the state, the resultant lowering of gasoline prices and availability of increased disposable income has made travel and tourism an even more attractive spending option.

PUBLIC AND CHILD SAFETY

SUPPORT

The Chamber has included public safety as one of our three priority areas for this session. The safety of our citizens and the protection of our children are critical to the well being of the state as a whole. The recent rash of significant violent crimes in the state has exposed the vulnerabilities in our existing statutes forcing all of us to revisit the need for legislation to address these issues in a meaningful way. For this reason we are in strong support of the following legislation.

HB99 (Rep. Paul Pacheco) Two-Tiered Driver's License

The Chamber believes it is absolutely imperative that the Legislature pass a two-tiered driver's license bill that meets the federal government requirements for Real ID. The federal government has denied an extension for New Mexico because we have made inadequate progress in meeting the federal guidelines despite having ten years to comply with the law. Already a number of federal facilities have denied entrance with only a New Mexico driver's license as proof of identity. In response to comments regarding the Governor's opposition to last year's Senate measure, it should be noted that the Governor has supported a number of bipartisan compromises that have failed to reach her desk for signature. Opponents to a bill that meets Real ID requirements need to step back and support this legislation. The reality is that most New Mexican support changes in current New Mexico law in order to meet the federal government requirements.

HB171 (Rep. Larry Larranaga and Senator Stu Ingle) Return to work for police officers

The Chamber continues to support a coalition of mayors led by Mayor Richard Berry of Albuquerque in their efforts to seek passage of "return-to-work" legislation for retired officers to address current and upcoming shortfalls in the number of officers on the police force. Reductions in the force have continued to go down from some 1099 officers in 2010 to about 820 currently, a 25% decrease. This has created great concern for affected communities.

The legislation the mayors are seeking in Santa Fe would allow retired officers to work without giving up their pensions. The legislation would edit the number of officers who can participate and places a phased-in sunset on the legislation. Safeguards in the legislation include: 1) returning officers would be limited at five years of work, 2) officers would contribute to the state retirement fund but not be eligible to accrue more retirement benefits, 3) retirees could account for only 10 percent of a police agency and 4) only those officers the department wants to rehire can be rehired. Additionally, in Albuquerque the rehires would be limited to holding the rank and salary of a patrol officer first class regardless of the officer's rank and salary at the time of retirement. It has been determined actuarially that passage of the return-to-work officers will not harm the state public employee retirement fund and might actually help it. The rehired officers would pay into the fund but would not accrue additional retirement benefits.

Berry noted that experienced officers are needed given that Albuquerque has begun carrying out police reforms required under a settlement agreement with the U. S. Department of Justice. The New Mexico

Municipal League has expressed full support for the proposed return-to-work legislation noting that smaller cities are facing similar challenges.

HB81 (Rep. Paul Pacheco), HB82 (Rep. Jim Dines) and HB83 (Rep. Sarah Maestas Barnes) to increase penalties for repeat DWI offenders

Recent events in Albuquerque and throughout the state have made it clear that we can no longer ignore the devastating impact of repeat DWI offenses. Legislation is strongly needed to increase penalties for repeat DWI offenders. Recent news articles have pointed out that the Governors Highway Safety Association has criticized New Mexico as one of a few states without a repeat offender law that imposes federally mandated minimum penalties for second or subsequent DWIs. Additionally, WalletHub, a consumer-based personal finance website, has ranked New Mexico 49th in the country when it comes to criminal penalties for DWI. Legislators must take a bold step forward and act now to ensure the safety of their constituents. Too many New Mexicans have died or been severely injured while the Legislature has failed to address this issue.

The Chamber urges passage of the above named strong repeat DWI offender legislation. HB82 clarifies that enhancement of basic sentences for prior noncapital felonies applies to conviction of a person for felony DWI. HB83 increases the penalty for conviction of homicide by vehicle or great bodily harm by vehicle from a third degree felony to a second degree felony. HB81 specifies that a person convicted of DWI while his or her license is suspended or revoked for DWI is guilty of a fourth degree felony.

HB56 (Rep. Paul Pacheco) and HB37 (Rep. Bill Rehm) Expand 3 strikes law

Given the significantly increased level of violent crime in New Mexico, in many cases by previously convicted felons, the Chamber believes it is imperative that we expand sentencing for those individuals who have committed a third violent felony by requiring mandatory life imprisonment. This legislation addresses this issue by expanding the definition of violent felony to include offenses not previously included in the definition such as manslaughter, aggravated assault with intent to commit a violent felony, a second or third degree shooting at a dwelling or occupied building, a second or third degree shooting at or from a motor vehicle, first degree abuse of a child and kidnapping among others. We urge passage of HB56.

HB29 (Rep. Nate Gentry and Rep. Paul Pacheco) Curfews in Local Jurisdictions

The Chamber supports HB29 believing that local communities can best determine for themselves whether or not to set a curfew ordinance. This legislation would allow the governing body of a county, municipality whether town, city or village to adopt a curfew ordinance to regulate the actions of children between midnight and 5:00 a.m. as well as during daytime hours on school days. There are a number of exemptions that include travel to and from work, attendance at school or religious functions and emancipated minors. The ordinance provides for procedural requirements for a law enforcement officer or other employee to contact the child's parent, custodian or guardian and to deliver the child to the residence of their parent, custodian or guardian or request that individual to pick up the child unless doing so would result in harm to the child. If efforts to contact the parent, custodian or guardian within a six hour time frame are unsuccessful, law enforcement is required to follow procedures for protective custody of the child.

HB27 (Rep. David Gallegos) "Racheal's Law" Protective Orders for Rape Victims

In the sentencing proceeding for a person convicted of criminal sexual penetration, a prosecutor may ask that the court grant the victim an order of protection to remain in effect for the duration of the court's jurisdiction over the person. After expiration of the court's jurisdiction, the victim may file a petition for

an order of protection against the person and submit evidence of the person's conviction as cause to grant the order. This law is named after Racheal Gonzales.

The legislation was introduced originally during the 2015 session and made it through two Senate committees and two House committees before being passed by the House 66-0 midway through the session. The Senate passed its version 39-0 with four days left in the session. Regrettably, the House bill scheduled to be heard on the Senate floor was never called up and the bill died.

HB181 (Rep. Paul Pacheco) Absconding from Parole as Fourth Degree Felony

The Chamber supports legislation to address the problem of individuals who have been released from jail and are on parole but have failed to check in with their parole officer as required. These individuals are placed on what is known as an absconder list, meaning they have not only failed to report in, but have intentionally fallen off the radar. Currently, the penalties for absconding are light. This legislation would make absconding a fourth degree felony. If we had had tougher laws regarding absconders of whom there are many, Rio Rancho Officer Gregg "Nigel" Benner would still be alive because his killer, a man on the state's absconder list, would have been behind bars.

HB153 (Rep. Nate Gentry) Clearinghouse for Criminal Background Checks of Defendants

The Chamber supports creating a statewide clearinghouse for criminal background information that judges could access in determining whether a defendant is a danger to the community when deciding how high to set a bail bond under current court interpretations of the state Constitution. The more information a judge has regarding a defendant's history, the more likely he or she is to make an informed decision regarding the setting of bail. Given the recent tragic events involving individuals with prior criminal records who were out on bail, the Chamber believes that it is critical to create such a clearinghouse in order to protect the citizens of New Mexico.

HB183 (Rep. Tim Lewis) Dual Sentencing (Juvenile/Adult)

The focus of the juvenile justice system has traditionally been on the rehabilitation of the juvenile. However, with violent juvenile crime and recidivism increasing, the trend in numerous states has shifted to include punishment and accountability as important factors in the interest of public safety. As a result, a number of states have enacted statutes to allow for dual sentencing of a juvenile by creating a blended sentencing structure in the case of a juvenile who has committed a very serious offense or is a repeat offender. In the interest of public safety, the Chamber supports legislation to address this issue.

SB113 (Sen. Mary Kay Papen) Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) - Senator Mary Kay Papen

The Chamber supports passage of Assisted Outpatient treatment legislation which would create a framework for assisted outpatient treatment for certain persons with a mental illness or disorder who have been ordered by the Court to participate in an outpatient treatment program. "Outpatient treatment" means categories of outpatient services ordered by a district court, including case management or assertive community treatment team services, prescribed to treat mental disorder in order to assist a patient in functioning in the community or to prevent harm to the patient or another or the need for hospitalization.

HB68 (Rep. Conrad James) Intentional Child Abuse Penalties

The Chamber supports efforts to ensure the safety of children. As a society we have an obligation to ensure that every child is safe. HB68 calls for making the penalty for negligent child abuse a third degree felony and for second and subsequent offences, the penalty is a second degree felony. The legislation also addresses the issue of intentional child abuse making the first offence of intentional child abuse not resulting in death or great bodily harm a second degree felony. A second or subsequent offense not resulting in death or great bodily is a first degree felony. It is a first degree felony to intentionally harm a child resulting in great bodily harm.

HB69 (Rep. Conrad James) Intentional Child Abuse Penalties Resulting in Death

This proposed legislation increases the penalty for intentional abuse of a child aged twelve to eighteen resulting in death from a first degree felony to a first degree felony resulting I death. This results in there being no distinction in penalty between a child under age twelve and a child up to age eighteen in terms of the charge. The Chamber supports this change to the Criminal Code.

HB121 (Rep. Sharon Clahchischilliage) Expand Scope of Certain Sexual Crimes

This legislation supported by the Chamber expands the definition of “force or coercion” in the Criminal Code to include the perpetration of criminal sexual penetration or criminal sexual contact on a child, with or without the child’s consent, by an individual in a position of authority. It also increases certain associated penalties. Protection for children, our most vulnerable citizens, must be our first concern.

HB142 (Rep Doreen Gallegos) Battery on a CYFD Worker

Those individuals who serve as public service workers at CYFD must be protected from assault or battery while on duty. This legislation makes it a crime to assault or batter a CYFD public service worker and sets penalties including aggravated assault on a CYFD public service worker is a third degree. Battery on such a worker is a fourth degree felony. Additionally, a person who assists or is assisted by one or more other persons in the commission of battery against a on duty CYFD public service worker is guilty of a fourth degree felony. The individuals who work as CYFD public service workers are doing a huge service to our communities and often at great risk to their own safety. They are protecting our children and we have an obligation to ensure that their safety is not compromised.

HB30 (Rep. Kelly Fajardo) Communication of Certain Images to Children

This legislation supported by the Chamber would amend the Criminal Code to provide criminal penalties for electronic communication of images of any person’s intimate parts to a child. We are all aware that in the internet era there has been an increase in children under sixteen being exposed to inappropriate and lewd images. Again, we have an obligation to protect the state’s children from predators including those online.

CYFD Budget Request of \$8M for CYFD Home Visiting and Early Childhood Outreach, Family Support Initiatives and Pull Together Campaign

The Chamber supports the CYFD budget request of \$8M knowing that the Department is faced with significant fiscal challenges in addressing the needs of the state’s most vulnerable citizens, our children.

ENERGY

SUPPORT

Low-Carbon Portfolio Standard

The Chamber supports creation of a standard for electric energy generation that stimulates low- or zero-carbon energy innovation, and promotes a diverse set of low- and zero-carbon generation solutions in New Mexico at the lowest incremental cost to electric consumers. This bill will allow New Mexico to expand its commitment to renewable energy, increase our investments in natural gas infrastructure, and stimulate investments in clean coal and nuclear generation. If passed, the bill will ensure that all electric generation in New Mexico comes from low or zero carbon energy sources by 2050.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

SUPPORT

SJR1 (Senator Peter Wirth and Senator Bill Payne) Denial of bail for dangerous criminals

This proposed CA would amend the New Mexico Constitution to grant courts of record new authority to deny release on bail pending trial for dangerous defendants in felony cases. The Joint Resolution sponsored by Senators from both sides of the aisle is intended to address a series of recent crimes committed by individuals with extensive criminal records who were released on bail as entitled under the current Constitution. While there is some disagreement as to whether this is “fair” to certain defendants, it is fair to the victims of these criminals who commit crimes while out of jail despite their past records.

OPPOSE

SJR2 (Senator Michael Padilla) Permanent Funds for childhood education

The Chamber continues to oppose providing for an additional distribution from the Land Grant Permanent Fund for new early childhood programs. SJR2 calls for 1.5% additional distribution which we oppose. The fund was intended as a source of revenue for the education of future generations of New Mexicans. To continue to invade the fund would result in a significant reduction to the corpus of the fund over ensuing years leaving the fund less solvent and the Legislature less able to meet its commitment to the children of New Mexico. While we support providing for early childhood education and programs, it should be noted that many of the programs to which the funds would go either lack the capacity to spend significant additional money effectively or the programs are unproven at this time. We believe that funding increases should come from traditional sources at a rational and gradual pace to both build capacity and effectiveness including the ability to better measure the results.

SJR3 (Senator Michael Padilla) Permanent Fund annual distributions

Again, the Chamber notes its opposition to any effort to invade the Permanent Fund. This CA would increase the payout from the Permanent Fund from 5.0 percent to 5.8 percent to implement and maintain educational reforms. It should be noted that in 2003, the Legislature passed a joint resolution which voters approved to increase the then payout from 5.0 percent to 5.8 percent. However, all parties agreed that the increase would be temporary out of concern for the Fund. The increased distribution was to raise teachers' salaries in order to be able to compete with other states and was tied to improved outcomes. It was clearly stated at the time that other sources would have to be identified for any teacher salary increases in the future. Efforts to continue to raid the Fund for salary increases and other needs is simply wrong. The fund was intended as a source of revenue for the education of future generations of New Mexicans. To continue to invade the fund would result in a significant reduction to the corpus of the fund over ensuing years leaving the fund less solvent and the Legislature less able to meet its commitment to the children of New Mexico. The 2003 Legislature and people of New Mexico understood that, which is why the increase was time limited.

HJR10 (Rep. Moe Maestas) Permanent Funds for Early Childhood

As noted above, the Chamber continues to oppose providing for an additional distribution from the Land Grant Permanent fund for new education services and early childhood programs. HJR10 calls for a total 2.0% additional distribution with 1.5% going to early childhood education services and another 0.5% going for educational programs. The fund was intended as a source of revenue for the education of future generations of New Mexicans. To continue to invade the fund would result in a significant reduction to the corpus of the fund over ensuing years leaving the fund less solvent and the Legislature less able to meet its commitment to the children of New Mexico. While we support providing for early childhood education and programs, it should be noted that many of the programs to which the funds would go either lack the capacity to spend significant additional money effectively or the programs are unproven at this time. We believe that funding increases should come from traditional sources at a rational and gradual pace to both build capacity and effectiveness including the ability to better measure the results.

HJR13 (Rep. David Adkins) Denial of bail for dangerous criminals

This constitutional amendment would partially address the issue before the courts regarding the denial of bail for dangerous defendants. However, the constitutional amendment as drafted would not address related problems important to the courts and to the Chamber.

Questions? Call:

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