



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fe

WILLIAM "BILL" R. REHM
R - Bernalillo
District 31

January 4, 2024

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The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor, State of New Mexico
State Capitol, Room 400
480 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor:

Since the following pieces of legislation have been pre-filed with the House Clerk's Office, I am writing to request a special message for House Bills 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47 so that they can be included within the public policy debate during the upcoming 30-day session on how best to alleviate New Mexico's major crime problem.

All these bills are drafted towards achieving the goal of effectively addressing our state's out of control crime issue by focusing on ending the revolving door justice system, providing enhanced penalties for felons in possession of firearms, creating a new crime of carrying a gun while trafficking a controlled substance, stopping catalytic converter thefts, and clarifying our embezzlement statute. While your commitment to address the pretrial detention/bail problems is encouraging, we must move forward with a comprehensive approach to make our state a place that all New Mexicans can feel safe and proud to be a part.

I continue to see statistics showing the majority of crimes committed in New Mexico are by repeat offenders and by those who have been arrested but have been released under the current, ill-advised "catch and release" pre-trial process. Yet, session after session, legislation is introduced that would ensure that criminals are held accountable for their actions, and these same proposals are summarily rejected in both House and Senate committees. I firmly believe your support for the bills listed above via a special message would signal to the Legislature that the time has come for us to finally get serious about reducing crime.

Support for these bills is not to suggest that the legislative and executive branches should only address specific criminal behavior; Republicans and Democrats should also be focusing our attention on the root causes of criminal behavior. We should commit to work together to increase resources for rehabilitation and treatment of drug addiction and mental health disorders that lead some people to a life of crime. We also, however, must recognize that any

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solution to the crime problem must include prioritizing keeping the most dangerous criminals off our streets. The people of New Mexico have had enough with the prevailing soft on crime approach that has clearly failed. It is for this primary reason, we must get serious about strengthening our criminal justice laws, and House Bills 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47 are essential components in this long overdue effort.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and I look forward to meeting with you and your staff to discuss these pieces of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William R. Rehm".

William R. Rehm
State Representative District 31