



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fé

January 28, 2026

Via: email

Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Gun-Related Legislation in New Mexico

Dear Assistant Attorney General Dhillon,

The New Mexico House Republican Caucus is writing to express our serious concerns regarding Senate Bill 17, recently introduced in the New Mexico Legislature. We respectfully request your attention to its constitutional implications.

We closely followed your recent remarks regarding proposed firearm legislation in Virginia that would ban commonly owned semiautomatic firearms and limit magazine capacity. Your clear statement that such proposals represent a blatant violation of Supreme Court precedent and will not withstand constitutional scrutiny was both timely and important.

New Mexico Senate Bill 17 mirrors many of the same defects you identified. Among other provisions, SB 17 would prohibit the sale and transfer of semiautomatic firearms in common use, ban magazines capable of holding more than ten rounds, and outlaw entire classes of firearms based on operating mechanisms rather than criminal misuse. These restrictions directly conflict with established Supreme Court precedent recognizing that arms in common lawful use are protected by the Second Amendment.

At a time when New Mexico faces one of the highest violent crime rates in the nation, SB 17 does nothing to target violent offenders. Instead, it imposes sweeping bans on law-abiding citizens, firearm dealers, and sportsmen, while raising serious concerns under the standards articulated in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, *McDonald v. Chicago*, and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*.

We are hopeful the U.S. Department of Justice is monitoring legislation of this nature across the nation. We are also seeking guidance from your office on SB 17's constitutionality, including any conflicts with binding constitutional precedent.

We appreciate your leadership in defending constitutional rights and ensuring that states remain within the bounds of the law. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We welcome any opportunity for further dialogue.

Respectfully,



Gail Armstrong
Republican Leader
District 49



Brian G. Baca
District 8



Jack Chatfield
District 67



Mark Duncan
District 2



Joshua N. Hernandez
District 60



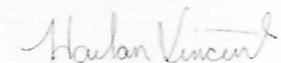
Jimmy G. Mason
District 66



Rod Montoya
District 1



Andrea Reeb
District 64



Harlan Vincent
District 56



Alan T Martinez
Republican Whip
District 23



John Block
District 51



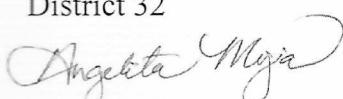
Nicole Chavez
District 31



William A. Hall II
District 3



Jenifer Jones
District 32



Angelita Mejia
District 58



Mark B. Murphy
District 59



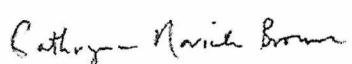
Elaine Sena Cortez
District 62



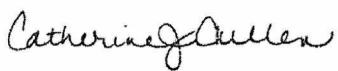
Martin R. Zamora
District 63



Rebecca Dow
Republican Caucus Chair
District 38



Cathrynn N. Brown
District 55



Catherine J. Cullen
District 57



Jonathan A. Henry
District 54



Stefani Lord
District 22



Tanya Mirabal Moya
District 7



Randall T. Pettigrew
District 61



Luis M. Terrazas
District 39