

State of New Mexico  
House of Representatives  
STATE CAPITOL  
Santa Fe

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.

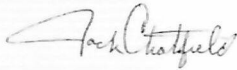
Respectfully,



Gail Armstrong  
Republican Leader  
District 49



Brian G. Baca  
District 8



Jack Chatfield  
District 67



Mark Duncan  
District 2



Joshua N. Hernandez  
District 60



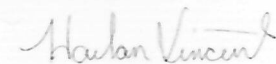
Jimmy G. Mason  
District 66



Rod Montoya  
District 1



Andrea Reeb  
District 64



Harlan Vincent  
District 56



Alan T Martinez  
Republican Whip  
District 23



John Block  
District 51



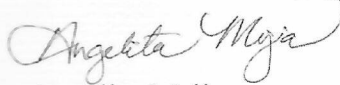
Nicole Chavez  
District 31



William A Hall II  
District 3



Jenifer Jones  
District 32



Angelita Mejia  
District 58



Mark B Murphy  
District 59




Elaine Sena Cortez  
District 62



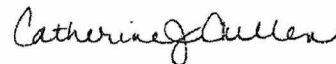
Martin R. Zamora  
District 63



Rebecca Dow  
Republican Caucus Chair  
District 38



Cathrynn N. Brown  
District 55



Catherine J. Cullen  
District 57



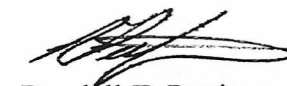
Jonathan A. Henry  
District 54



Stefani Lord  
District 22



Tanya Mirabal Moya  
District 7



Randall T. Pettigrew  
District 61



Luis M. Terrazas  
District 39