

Dear New Mexico Legislators,

New Mexicans Support Removing Barriers to Employment for People with Convictions

We support the passage of SB 459, the Consideration of Criminal History in Hiring bill, sponsored by Senator Clinton Harden.

We support removing the question on state job applications asking if a person has ever been convicted of a felony. Applicants should be considered on equal status with other job applicants, and only during the finalist interview process will a criminal background check be completed if it is relevant or required for the position.

By offering more opportunities for employment for former offenders, New Mexico can reduce its rate of recidivism, increase public safety, and invest in productive successful citizens. Thank you for your leadership and support on this issue that is so important to New Mexicans.

Albuquerque HealthCare for the Homeless
New Mexico Public Health Association
Alice King Family Center
Coalition for Prisoners' Rights
Families & Youth Inc.
NAACP, Santa Fe
National Association of Forensic Counselors - NM Chapter
Veterans for Peace - Albuquerque Chapter
NM American Civil Liberties Union
NM Council on Crime and Delinquency
NM Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
NM Department of Peace Initiative
NM HIV Prevention Community Planning Group
NM Nurses Association
NM Women's Justice Project
PB&J Family Services
Rio Grande Alcoholism Treatment Program, INC
Crossroads for Women
Rio Grande Foundation
Santa Fe Recovery Center
SF Teen Arts Center, Warehouse 21
Drug Policy Alliance New Mexico
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