

Statewide Ban of Bias-Based Profiling ~ *Talking Points*

Why do we need to ban racial profiling?

- New Mexico is behind the growing trend of states banning bias-based profiling - 22 states have already passed legislation.
- Legislation addressing bias-based profiling is part of a nonpartisan, national, multicultural, and multi-organizational movement.
- New Mexico prides itself on being such a multicultural state, and this legislation will ensure the protection and celebration of our state's diversity.
- New Mexico has already passed a number of bills promoting the protecting of human rights. Banning bias-based profiling follows the same trend of protecting human and civil rights as hate crimes and human trafficking legislation.

Banning Bias-Based Profiling Helps Law Enforcement and our Communities

- The perception of bias-based profiling hurts law enforcement agencies and community policing efforts. Many minority communities perceive that racial profiling is prevalent, and this hinders police-community relations.
- Resolving bias-based profiling protects and fosters a true partnership between police departments and the communities they serve.
- Independent investigations and lawsuits in New Mexico have shown evidence of bias-based profiling and local communities are concerned. Rather than waiting for an expensive and damaging statewide lawsuit or major incident to occur in our state, New Mexico can take a proactive step by banning bias-based profiling.
- Banning bias-based profiling is part of a broad-based coalition of organizations that advocate for policies based on equality and fairness.

What does this bill propose?

- The bill will officially define and ban bias-based profiling in New Mexico. The definition of bias-based profiling goes beyond just race and ethnicity and includes individuals targeted based on gender, sexual orientation, religion, and political affiliation.
- Passing a bias-based policing ban will ensure the development and implementation of plans, policies, training protocols, and strategies to eliminate bias-based profiling in New Mexico.
- Individuals who feel they have been a victim of bias-based policing will be able to file a formal complaint with law enforcement agencies, and complaints will be collected by the Attorney General's office annually.