

Representative:

My name is Frank Pagurko, and I write to you on behalf of the Rio Grande Foundation, an economic policy think tank based in Albuquerque. We work to promote the interests of the people of New Mexico through free market policy.

In the interests of promoting prosperity for New Mexican workers as well as public health, I urge you to **vote YES** on HB 134, the “Family-Friendly Workplace Incentives Program” bill. While other paid sick and family leave bills currently before the legislature will seriously undermine economic recovery efforts for small businesses, HB 134 will promote the same kinds of family-friendly policies without placing an undue burden on small businesses. This bill incentivizes and helps employers enact pro-family policies, rather than simply placing a mandate without regard for the financial situation of specific businesses. A bill similar to HB 134 was proposed in 2019, and analysis showed that over three hundred thousand New Mexicans would benefit from the program, while new expenses incurred by employers would be minimized. Incentive programs like this will benefit our economy far better than simple mandates.

If sick and family leave are to be implemented in New Mexico, it should be done in a way that does not wipe out businesses that supply paychecks to the residents of our state. HB 134 provides a means to make that happen. Please vote yes on HB 134. Thank you.



Frank Pagurko III