

Senator:

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 interest of New Mexico taxpayers, I strongly urge you to **vote NO** on SB 110, the “Increasing Employer Contributions” bill. As you are aware, the past year has been extremely hard on our economy, especially in New Mexico. Our unemployment rate remains one of the highest in the nation at 8.2%. Under this bill, the “employer” is ultimately the taxpayer, meaning that increased contributions lead to higher taxes. While the altered educational setting has been a difficult adjustment for teachers, they have not suffered the layoffs and uncertainty that non-state employees have experienced. It would be unfair to add additional burdens on the backs of the many people who have lost their jobs to pay into the health insurance of those who have enjoyed far better job security during the difficult past year. If our state economy is to recover from the Covid-19 shutdown, we cannot afford to further tax those New Mexicans who have managed to hold on to their jobs.

For the recovery of our economy and prosperity of all New Mexicans, please vote no on SB 110. Thank you.



Frank Pagurko III