

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 everyone who lives and works in New Mexico, I strongly urge you to **vote NO** on HB 4, the “New Mexico Civil Rights Act.” While government officials and employees should certainly be held accountable when they violate the civil rights of New Mexicans, this bill is poorly constructed and would do manifest harm to our state’s communities by unleashing untold waves of lawsuits against them. Counties and municipalities will find it difficult to afford their reinsurance costs with the added liability created by this bill. If passed, HB 4 would raise costs to taxpayers by millions of dollars annually. But, if adopted, HB 4 will not improve policing or myriad government services in New Mexico rather, it will only make it more difficult to hire and insure law enforcement officers and sensitive positions in government. Government overreach into the private lives of citizens leads to the kinds of violations of civil rights targeted by this bill. If the legislature is serious about protecting New Mexicans’ civil rights, it should look to reducing the number of laws on the books instead of adding to them.

Please do not cripple local governments in New Mexico by saddling them with new, uninsurable liabilities. Vote no on HB 4. Thank you.



Frank Pagurko III