



New Mexico State Legislature

STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Lujan Grisham, Governor
State of New Mexico
400 State Capitol
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham:

We hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for your steadfast and courageous leadership these past several months. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed deep-seeded racial inequities across this country, and New Mexico hasn't fared much better. The senseless murder of Mr. George Floyd has only exacerbated the intersection of COVID-19 and race, and while protestors across the country take their fight to the streets, it will be up to policymakers like us to begin to craft strategies to address institutional racism.

We thank you for issuing an Executive Message this past Legislative Session for Senate Bill 90, Policies to Decrease Institutional Racism. While the Bill did not move forward for a Floor vote in the Senate due to time restraints, we respectfully ask you to place it on the call of the upcoming special legislative session.

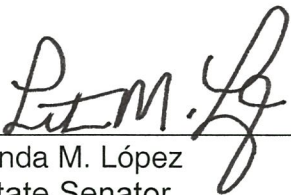
In 2017 the legislature passed Senate Bill 269 (sponsored by two of us), which required state agencies to develop internal policies to address institutional racism, the first state legislature in the country to do so. Unfortunately then-Governor Susana Martínez vetoed the bill. The fiscal impact report at the time indicated a rather minimal cost to the state – we'd expect the cost to be similar today as well.

We believe that legislation to address institutional racism will complement and help advance the work of the Racial Justice Council that you recently announced. We don't believe that this would be a controversial bill in the special session, and the impact of having such smart, responsive, and progressive law in our books would put New Mexico on the map as a state that is taking the scourge of institutional racism seriously.


Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope to have a response from your office soon.

Sincerely,


Linda M. López
State Senator


Javier Martínez
State Representative


Patricia Roybal Caballero
State Representative