

S.B. 96 Violates Freedom of Speech

March 16, 2017

Dear Governor Martinez:

On behalf of the millions of Americans represented by the undersigned organizations who value freedom and liberty, we write to urge you to reject S.B. 96, the anti-free speech measure that will arrive at your desk.

S.B. 96 would allow the state government to access the personal information of New Mexicans and require citizens to report which groups or causes they privately support. This measure is a direct violation of the First Amendment, which protects free, anonymous speech, and is also a concerning invasion of privacy.

Please consider the chilling implications this measure would have on our ability to debate openly within the state. If passed, S.B. 96 will effectively silence people who fear discrimination or retaliation because of what they believe. The bill would expose New Mexicans to potential intimidation and harassment for simply speaking up about issues they are passionate about. Many others may simply choose not to speak up because they don't want the government handling their private information.

Our Founding Fathers understood the importance of anonymous speech, which is why they chose to publish the Federalist Papers anonymously. Since that time, millions of veterans have fought and sacrificed to protect the right to free speech in America. It is the foundation of democracy.

We urge you to support the First Amendment and reject S.B. 96.

Sincerely,

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Americans for Prosperity

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CONCERNED
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