

Institute for Legislative Action

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

September 14, 2023

Governor Lujan Grisham,

On behalf of our members and all other law-abiding gun owners in New Mexico, I write to inform you of our Association's intent to use every legal avenue to defend the fundamental right to keep and bear arms from your unlawful and unconstitutional executive orders. As I write this, we have just filed a petition in the New Mexico Supreme Court to enjoin your orders.

The Constitutions of New Mexico and the United States both clearly protect the right of peaceable people to carry firearms for self-defense.

Article II, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of New Mexico provides that "[n]o law shall abridge the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms for security and defense, for lawful hunting and recreational use and for other lawful purposes, but nothing herein shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons. No municipality or county shall regulate, in any way, an incident of the right to keep and bear arms." And the Second Amendment, to the Constitution of the United States provides that "[a] well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

You claim that your oath to uphold the rights covered by these amendments is "not absolute." The National Rifle Association strongly disagrees. New Mexicans and other law-abiding Americans visiting or travelling through Albuquerque and Bernalillo County have an *absolute* right to carry the firearm of their choosing to defend themselves and their families.

When announcing these orders, you claimed that they are meant to deal with the very real problem of violent crime in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. Yet, in the very press conference where you made that claim, you admitted that the criminals responsible for that rising violence will not follow these orders. The NRA urges you to hold criminals responsible for the damage they inflict, but we will not stand by as you attempt to blame and restrict the rights of peaceful Americans who simply want to protect themselves, their families, and their community.

Please rescind your unlawful and blatantly unconstitutional orders and uphold your oath to defend the constitutional rights of those in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. Until then, we'll see you in court.

Respectfully,

Randy Kozuch
NRA-ILA Executive Director