

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2021

Contact: Matt Garcia-Sierra, m.garciasierra@nmlegis.gov, 505.205.5486

Attempt made to blast independent redistricting out of committee quagmire

Santa Fe, NM- Today Representative Rebecca Dow (R-TorC) moved to blast House Bill 211, the Independent Redistricting Act, out of committee deadlock in order to allow the legislation to be heard by the full body. HB 211 is co-sponsored by a group of thirty-five bipartisan lawmakers, and is supported by bipartisan and nonpartisan organizations.

“We cannot allow partisan politics to prevent fair and independent redistricting for every New Mexican, our communities are counting on this body to be transparent and work in the best interest of our state,” said Rep. Rebecca Dow (R-TorC). “This is an important bill for every New Mexican, and it is unfortunate that unlike other bills, this one has effectively been silenced by ‘processes and precedent.’ I believe that not allowing a transparent debate on a bill that has so much support from the legislature and more importantly, our communities, is legislative malpractice.”

While HB 211 and SB 199 were the culmination of months of bipartisan work, the Senate passed SB 15, a watered down version of redistricting that removes all of the protections the interim work group created and gives the legislature the ability to gerrymander the maps for the next 10 years.

The motion to move forward the bipartisan and community backed HB 211 was blocked by Democrats on a vote of 25-43.

###