

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Legislation Sponsored by Senator Gay Kernan Signed Into Law** *Senate Bill 140, Senate Bill 34, and Senate Bill 77*

SANTA FE – This week, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed Senate Bill 140, Senate Bill 34, and Senate Bill 77, sponsored by Senator Gay Kernan (District 42-Chaves, Eddy, and Lea). Senator Kernan released the following statements commending her colleagues and the Governor for their support on these vital measures.

### **Senate Bill 140: Updates and modernizes New Mexico child support law, bringing it into federal compliance and delivering more child support for New Mexico children**

“Any bill dealing with children, especially at-risk children in our state, should be written with their well-being and future in mind first. We wrote this bill to incentivize voluntary compliance in the child support program because parents who feel they are financially supporting their children are more likely to participate in their child’s life. I am thankful that the Governor and my colleagues saw this bill for what it is – an opportunity to save our state millions in expiring federally guaranteed dollars and a chance to make the child support system work better for our kids.” -Senator Gay Kernan

### **Senate Bill 34: Allows the New Mexico Department of Transportation to use design and build for a project with construction costs over \$50 million regardless of funding source**

“Reforming the infrastructure of our state is a first step to ensuring a bright future for our economy. Without critical infrastructure updates, businesses looking to expand or open shop will look outside New Mexico. This bill is a simple fix that allows the state to use a system of contracting proven to speed up the completion of large projects.” -Senator Gay Kernan

### **Senate Bill 77: Launches a pilot program that makes the transition between K-12 education, two-year higher education institutions, and four-year colleges and universities more seamless**

“In my community, the transition between a two-year community college and a four-year university is often a monumental task because the credit systems are not properly aligned. This pilot program will improve that process significantly by aligning the curriculum at a community college directly with the curriculum at a university. This more efficient pathway can help reduce student debt and remediation, and should improve our graduation rates and timelines.” - Senator Gay Kernan

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