FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 12, 2021 Contact: Joaquin Romero joaquin.romero@nmlegis.gov (505) 506-5798

## Senator Greg Baca Releases Statement Regarding UNM Graduation

SANTA FE – The University of New Mexico's Spring 2021 Graduation will occur this weekend at Dreamstyle Stadium in Albuquerque, but <u>according to the University</u>, guests will not be allowed to attend. The University has cited COVID-19 guidelines as the reason for a lack of parent and guest seating despite the recent opening of outdoor sporting stadiums. According to the most recent Public Health Order, the stadium may allow for 75% capacity, which amounts to 29,418 available seats in the stadium.

Senate Republican Leader, **Senator Greg Baca** (District 29-Bernalillo and Valencia), issued the following statement regarding the University's decision:

"After possibly the most difficult and lonely school year in the history of the University of New Mexico, UNM has **disappointed** our students and their families with this obsolete decision. Our graduates worked extremely hard to meet their graduation requirements despite the challenges of this past year. Now, their loved ones who supported them must cheer them on from a laptop or television. Whatever the reason for this decision, our students are being denied this once in a lifetime celebration."

"I want to extend my personal congratulations to every graduate and join with your family members and friends in thanking you for your hard work and wishing you all the best in your next endeavor."

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