

## RPNM Responds to Gov. MLG's Call for a Special Session

**APRIL 17**—Today, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham announced in a press release that she will call the New Mexico Legislature into a special session set to begin on Thursday, July 18th, to address what she says are "additional public safety protections."

The Republican Party of New Mexico Chairman and former Congressman Steve Pearce gives the following statement in response:

"When New Mexicans hear that Gov. Lujan Grisham is calling a special session to address public safety, a chill runs down their spines because her <u>past actions</u> prove that she is not interested in taking measures against criminals, but rather against law-abiding citizens.

The Democrats are totally to blame for New Mexico's out-of-control crime. They need to explain why public safety wasn't their priority during the previous legislative session despite holding a majority in both chambers of the state legislature.

During the last session, Republicans proposed several bills aimed at increasing penalties for multiple crimes, ending catch and release, and securing the border. Democrats <u>killed</u> every single one.

Recently, the Governor expressed her <u>intention</u> not to take additional measures to secure New Mexico's Southern border, even if she were to call a special session. She cannot claim to care about public safety while ignoring the numerous problems stemming from our open border, including the rampant influx of fentanyl, alarming prevalence of human trafficking, and criminal cartel activity.

Despite this, the Governor is planning to spend hundreds of thousands of New Mexicans' tax dollars to convene an additional session that could result in another waste of time or in law-abiding citizens' rights being infringed upon.

For the sake of New Mexicans, I hope that the Governor will engage in meaningful conversations with Republicans and heed their advice on addressing the criminal issues plaguing our state to ensure that this special session will be productive."