Dear Legislator,

I am writing to ask for your support of **House Bill 14 – the Opportunity Scholarship**.

I want to live in a New Mexico where everyone is given the opportunity to further their education, regardless of income. I want to live in a New Mexico where a more secure financial future is within everyone’s grasp. I want to live in a New Mexico that invests in its students and by doing so, invests in its workforce and its economic future.

The Opportunity Scholarship does just that. By providing full funding to the Higher Education Department for this new scholarship fund, you’ll be helping **55,000 students** to attend higher education at no cost of tuition and fees.

We know that affordability is one of the main drivers keeping New Mexicans from attending college, and we know removing that barrier means increased enrollment and more equitable opportunities for our diverse population. As the Legislative Lottery Scholarship has covered less and less of the cost of tuition since its inception in 1996, enrollment at our institutions has also steadily declined. Lottery Scholarship recipients are **three times more likely to receive a degree**. The Opportunity Scholarship will restore the promise of the Lottery Scholarship, filling in the gap left for many students who must currently cover the cost themselves.

The Opportunity Scholarship not only defines a path for individual student success; it will also boost New Mexico’s economy, with more home-grown students staying, living and working at higher-paying jobs right here in our community. Those with college degrees are 24 percent more likely to be employed and three times more likely to buy a home.

That’s the New Mexico that I want to live in. Please, vote “yes” for the Opportunity Scholarship.

Thank you for your consideration,

[YOUR NAME]