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Somos Un Pueblo Unido Acknowledges the Senate Cloture Vote Regarding the Laken Riley Act

SANTA FE, NM— Somos Un Pueblo Unido extends our gratitude to Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Luján for their decisive NO votes on the Senate Cloture vote regarding the Laken Riley Act. Their commitment to standing up for New Mexico and prioritizing the interests of our communities demonstrates strong leadership and a deep understanding of the issues at hand. We greatly appreciate their dedication to protecting the values and needs of our state, as well as Congressional members Melanie Stansbury, Gabe Vasquez, and Teresa Leger Fernández, who also voted against the Act in the House last week.

We would also like to reiterate our strong opposition to this legislation. The Laken Riley Act poses a danger to all communities and does not effectively address public safety. Mandating that ICE indefinitely detain individuals solely for being arrested or charged, not convicted, of a crime, or for missing a court date undermines due process and violates constitutional protections. Furthermore, granting state attorneys general excessive authority to challenge federal immigration policies could lead to chaos and disrupt consistent and effective governance.

New Mexico has a strong legal tradition of integrating mixed-status immigrant families into public safety efforts through dozens of city and county non-discrimination policies, not alienating them. Somos Un Pueblo Unido and other immigrant-based organizations have worked closely with victim and survivor rights organizations, local governments, and law enforcement for decades to ensure immigrants, regardless of status, are building trust with public safety agencies. The Laken Riley Act would undermine those years of effective collaboration with local law enforcement and emergency services.

In response, Marcela Díaz, Executive Director of Somos Un Pueblo Unido, released the following statement:

"Public safety must always be a priority for the nation and New Mexico. However, true public safety integrates immigrant families and protects all individuals, regardless of immigration status. The Laken Riley Act fails to achieve this goal; instead, it erodes due process and constitutional protections while fostering fear, exclusion, and mistrust of all

law enforcement. This legislation threatens to disrupt the lives of immigrant communities that are essential to the economic and social fabric of New Mexico, and it undermines the hard work immigrant-based organizations have done with law enforcement agencies, local governments, and victims' rights organizations to build trust and foster collaboration. Rather than serving justice or public safety, it promotes division, discrimination, and mistrust. We urge lawmakers to oppose the Laken Riley Act and uphold all individuals' rights and dignity in our communities.”

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About Somos Un Pueblo Unido

Somos Un Pueblo Unido is a statewide immigrant-based civil and workers' rights organization with membership teams in eight counties and worker centers in Santa Fe, Hobbs, Roswell, and Farmington.