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## **Senate Republican Whip, Senator Craig Brandt, Blasts Passage of Senate Bill 43**

*Legislation would allow some offenders guilty of murder to be released in 15 years*

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Senate today passed Senate Bill 43 on a 23-15 vote. If enacted, the legislation would prohibit serious youthful offenders convicted of murder from being sentenced to life without parole.

After visiting with multiple victims of violent crimes and their families, Senate Republican Whip, **Senator Craig Brandt** (District 40-Sandoval), opposed the legislation and released the following statement:

“The Democrat’s ‘tough on crime’ legislative session has turned into a ‘soft on criminals’ fiasco. It’s very revealing that the first piece of crime legislation to clear the Senate is a bill that would reduce the sentence for those convicted of heinous murders—allowing some capital felons to be released in as few as 15 years. This bill is a slap in the face to the victims and families who will be severely impacted by this misguided policy. The Governor said she wanted to get ‘tough on crime’ after 117 murders in Albuquerque. I guess it will take more than that for some of my colleagues to do the same. I urge the House to reject this bill and the Governor to veto it if it makes it to her desk.”

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