

House Business Affairs & Labor
03/09/2022 Upon Adjournment
HB22-1230 Employment Support And Job Retention Services
Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Aubrey Wilde For Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	<p data-bbox="565 373 1341 407">Members of the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee:</p> <p data-bbox="565 449 1458 779">The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (the Coalition) is in strong support of HB22-1230 to continue and expand the Employment Support and Job Retention Services program. For nearly 40 years, the Coalition has worked collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for families, children, and individuals who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado. This bill will help more people succeed in their employment goals by assisting with barriers like emergency childcare needs, unexpected car trouble, and more.</p> <p data-bbox="565 825 1466 1121">The Coalition offers a robust suite of vocational supports, including Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, the ReHire program, and individualized training opportunities and employment support specifically for women. Our work would not be possible without the ongoing support of partners and funders who share our passion to assist job seekers in realizing their employment goals, including the support offered by the Employment Support and Job Retention Services Program.</p> <p data-bbox="565 1163 1463 1346">We are supportive of the effort to extend the program indefinitely and appropriate \$500,000 annually on a continuous basis. We also encourage the modifications to eligibility, the definition of “service provider,” and reporting requirements. All these changes will make the program stronger and more meaningful.</p> <p data-bbox="565 1388 1333 1457">We urge a “yes” vote on HB22-1230 because it will strengthen Colorado’s families, diverse communities, and economy.</p>



March 9th, 2022

Dear members of the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee:

My name is Mark Turner. I write on behalf of Colorado Nonprofit Association to ask you to support HB 22-1230.

Colorado Nonprofit Association represents over 1,100 nonprofits. Our mission is to lead, serve, and strengthen Colorado's nonprofit community to improve quality of life throughout our state.

HB22-1230 expands the definition of a service provider, which allows significantly more nonprofits to participate in the Employment Support and Job Retention Services Program.

Encouraging more nonprofits to participate in the program expands the opportunity to support people affected by unemployment HB 22-1230 also funds the successful Employment Support and Job Retention program, building on the success from HB19-1107.

Thanks to Representatives Duran and Exum and Senators Fields and Priola for sponsoring this bill.

Please vote yes on HB22-1230. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Turner".

Mark Turner
Senior Director of Public Policy
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Colorado House of Representatives
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

March 9, 2022

Re: Support HB22-1230, Employment Support Job Retention Services

Dear House Business Affairs & Labor Committee Members:

Good Business Colorado (GBC) is a statewide grassroots organization of over 420 business owner members in 31 counties across the state. Our values-driven members work together to advocate for a prosperous economy, equitable communities, and a sustainable environment. On behalf of our membership, I urge you to please vote **Yes** on HB22-1230, Employment Support Job Retention Services, which represents a strategic, low-cost state investment that offers a great ROI multiplier, benefiting individual job seekers, growing Colorado's labor force, strengthening our economy and improving the overall business environment of our state.

Representing a bipartisan membership, we are selective of the bills we endorse, supporting only policies that provide an obvious benefit to our business members and the Colorado economy. We supported HB19-1107 to pilot this program because we have many member businesses that make a concerted effort to hire individuals who are low-income and/or have faced significant work barriers, and this program promised to both build the pipeline of at-risk employees who have access to resources that will help them overcome employment barriers and increase the likelihood of these employees being able to retain the job once hired.

Our members see employees challenged by emergencies in their personal lives on a regular basis, and especially with low income workers, it is really hard for them to "get back on their feet" without outside support.

HB-1107 successfully addressed this pain point by creating a pilot project for an emergency services fund that nonprofits and public agencies could use to help job-seekers get what they needed to get and keep a job. This fund has been good for not only our members but the broader business community and we support making it permanent because:

- Businesses need employees who are focused and productive at work – especially in a time when businesses are struggling with a labor shortage that has only been exacerbated by the pandemic– and the fund has helped at-risk workers stay employed, focused and productive.
- The fund will continue to reduce the high costs of employee turnover, which is even more important in this time of critical labor shortages.
- The fund reduces obstacles for Coloradans looking to re-enter the workforce, helping them look for and keep a job, and growing Colorado's workforce.

One of our members, Jessi Burg of Outgrow Your Garage Business Development, is a small business owner who has spent decades in seasonal industries. She strongly supports this bill, and wrote to us following:

I have had times in my life where I would have greatly benefitted from such a fund, most notable including when my options to get to work were a) walk two miles (uphill to get there and downhill on the way back) OR b) take two different RTD buses with a 25 minute wait between them. As an employer, I have had workers call out for flat tires, check engine lights, and a myriad of other car repairs. As a small landscaping company, we didn't have a central office where employees met in the morning. In addition, many of our sites were not accessible via public transportation or employees needed to be at multiple sites in a day.

The Employment Support Job Retention Services Pilot Program has fulfilled its promise. Accordingly, **we urge you to vote yes on HB22-1230 to extend it into the future.**

Best Regards,

Debra Brown, Executive Director
Angelique Espinoza, Policy Director

Good Business Colorado
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