

House Business Affairs & Labor**03/18/2021 1:30 PM****Testimony - HB21-1048 Retail Business Must Accept Cash**

Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Text of Testimony
Ms.	Alainna	Belknap	For	New Era Colorado	<p>New Era Colorado strongly supports House Bill 1048. New Era Colorado is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization that works to mobilize and empower the next generation to participate in democracy and move our state forward to become a better place for us all. Economic justice is one of our organization's core values that we fight for year after year, because we know that economic safety, opportunity, and access are the only way to ensure we are building our generation's power beyond the ballot box. Economic injustice is all around us, baked into our economic system in ways that people with economic power may not even realize, and it's one of white supremacy's strongest tools for diverting power away from marginalized communities. This bill would halt the growing trend of Colorado retail establishments eliminating cash as a payment option, which is an inequitable practice that most harshly impacts low-income people and People of Color.</p> <p>As our economy increasingly values credit over cash, people who don't have credit or debit cards, bank accounts, or safe financial independence are marginalized and cut off from participating in the economy. This impacts people's ability to access housing, internet access, transportation, and more. As a result, families who don't have access to financial services have difficulty meeting basic needs, and also experience barriers to building wealth and becoming financially stable in the long run. As our labor market becomes dominated by low wage work and gig work, and as our unemployment crisis worsens, more and more Coloradans will lose financial resources and access to financial services, and Coloradans of color, and particularly Black Coloradans, will continue to be disproportionately harmed.</p> <p>All too often, people who don't have access to financial services are denied business at retail establishments due to inability to offer credit or debit payment, despite having the ability to pay in cash. Everyday necessities like groceries, over-the-counter medications, gas, and clothing should be accessible to all, and access shouldn't depend on having a payment type that disproportionately excludes People of Color and low-income people. We must ensure that Colorado businesses continue to accept US currency as payment, so that our communities can participate in our economy despite barriers to paying electronically.</p>



March 10, 2021

To: Members of the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee

Re: 21-1048, Business must accept cash, A. Valdez/R. Rodriguez

Dear members:

HB 21-1048 requires retail establishments that offer goods or services to accept United States currency (cash) to purchase the goods or services but applies only to establishments that have an individual accepting payment in person. A violation is a class 2 petty offense punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

NFIB is an incorporated nonprofit association with nearly 300,000 members across America. NFIB protects and advances the ability of individuals to own, operate, and grow their businesses and ensures that the Congress of the United States and all 50 states hear the voice of small business as they formulate public policy.

On behalf of NFIB Colorado's 7,000 members, we respectfully **oppose** House Bill 1048.

We believe it is the right of any business owner to accept all legal means of payment including the right to reject certain types of payment if the owner believes it might cause a risk to the employee accepting payment or to customers.

Therefore, NFIB Colorado requests this committee does not pass HB 21-1048

Thank you,

A.F. Tony Gagliardi, State Director
NFIB Colorado
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