



It is a strategic priority of Colorado Christian University to impact our culture in support of traditional family values, sanctity of life, compassion for the poor, Biblical View of human nature, limited government, personal freedom, free markets, natural law, original intent of the Constitution, Western civilization. The Centennial Institute at Colorado Christian University engages public policy in an effort to advance these principles.

The Centennial Institute supports SB21-005 and respectfully requests a “YES” vote.

This bill allows for a business that has been ordered to cease or limit its operations as a result of a declared emergency or public health emergency to continue or resume operations if the affected business' products or services are also available at another business operating in the area that has not been ordered to cease or limit its operations; and that the affected business complies with the safety precautions outlined in the public health order.

The handpicking of certain Colorado businesses as essential has ruined Colorado's economy. Once one of the best economies in the country, Colorado's businesses are suffering under the heavy hand of government. The government unfairly forced small businesses to close during the COVID-19 pandemic, while large businesses, offering many of the same products and services of affected small businesses, could stay open.

The government should have set criteria for ordering the cease or limitation of business operation, as outlined in SB21-005. Businesses that sell the same products and/or services must be treated as equally essential. SB21-005 creates a fair standard for which businesses may be allowed to stay open, allowing for a more sensible and prosperous economy in Colorado.

Thank you for your time, thank you for your service, and thank you for your consideration.

Jeff Hunt

Director
Centennial Institute
Colorado Christian University

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Testimony - SB21-005 Business Exempt From Public Health Order To Close

First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Testifying	Text of Testimony	Registered
Sandra	Hagen	Self	Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance	Submitted text	<p>The NCLA strongly supports Senator Woodward's SB 5. During COVID response, countless small businesses — clothing boutiques, flower shops, toy stores, hardware stores, gift shops — were closed under public health orders while Target, Walmart, Home Depot all were allowed to remain open. Store fronts in every</p> <p>I'm writing today in support of SB21-005. I will try to testify virtually today, but in case I can't make it, I am submitting my testimony here. One of the things that has made the response to the novel corona virus difficult has been its novelty. In the beginning, I don't think anyone had a clear idea of what the best response was. I think even now that's not a settled scientific question: we know what to do on an individual basis, but as far as governmental policy is concerned, there are many things that we can still debate. Decisions are made at a particular point in time and with a finite amount of information. I like many other reasonable people, do not expect perfection and realize exactly what " hindsight is 20/20 " means. I am not writing you with complaints about Governor Polis. I am not writing you to litigate his policy decisions last year. There is a time and place for that and it's not here. At the same time, I would urge you to not see a "NO" vote today as necessary to defend the governor or put your stamp of approval on his policy. This is about fairness. Business can be horribly cruel. You can work your heart out to start something and still fail. This is true whether there is a pandemic or not. Should we be (and I hope we are not) unfortunate enough to be in another pandemic as we are now. I would hope you and I can agree that we shouldn't be giving some businesses the ability to open while other equivalent businesses are told to close. In particular, we shouldn't do this if both are able to meet the same level of safety and prevention of disease spread. That is what SB21-005 does: it maintains a level of safety but prevents picking winners and losers. It is the way best we can do to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and given the same chance. Let us take a lesson learned from this current pandemic. Is it any safer to have 100 people clustered into Home Depot buying refrigerators while Appliance Factory Outlet has its doors chained? I would submit that it might have been better the other way around, if we follow what the governor has lately said (that the chances of COVID transmission while masked and having incidental contact in a store is low risk) having 50 in each store seems the better bet. I urge you to pass the bill to the floor where it can be debated in the open and where everyone will get a chance to decide for him or herself on the merits of the bill. Thank you for your time and attention.</p>	3/16/2021 14:05
Cory	Gaines	For	Self	Submitted text		3/16/2021 4:45