

January 31, 2019

Good Morning,

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you about my opposition to HB 19-1058. I represent Good Business Colorado. We are a member organization with about 100 members, advocating for a strong economy, thriving communities, and a sustainable environment. We strongly oppose this measure. It is the wrong solution to the real need for paid family and medical leave.

For the last 25 years, I have run a plastic water bottle manufacturing company with up to 65 full time employees. More than half of our people worked on bottle assembly. These hard working Coloradans were at the lower end of the pay scale. Many of them are living paycheck to paycheck.

Real paid family leave can help prevent a car accident, sick child or other medical emergency from being a disaster for their family and the businesses these employees work for. The bill before you does nothing to help these families. Tax preferred savings accounts are unaffordable for them. Even if they could put some money aside it would take years for those accounts to cover their costs. And for those at small companies, they wouldn't be guaranteed their job back. Any money they managed to put into a savings account for paid leave would take away from their ability to save for other things like retirement, college tuition, a car or other necessities. That's bad for them and for our economy.

The tax credits in this bill will do little to promote paid leave for small business employees. Most small companies won't be able to take advantage of this program. These credits will be a giveaway for companies that can already afford to provide paid leave.

HB 19-058 won't help the people who need paid leave the most, and it won't do much if anything to increase the amount of businesses that are able to provide paid leave. It is the wrong solution for Colorado Families and Colorado businesses. Please vote no on this ~~bill~~ bill. I look forward to supporting a bill that will actually deliver paid medical leave that works for all Colorado businesses and their employees.

Judy Amabile

Co-Founder and Former President, Polar Bottle