



January 30, 2019

Dear House Business Affairs & Labor Committee Members:

On behalf of Good Business Colorado, I would like to express our strong support for HB19-1107, the Employment Support Job Retention Services Program.

Good Business Colorado is a nonpartisan business membership organization with the mission of advocating for policies that build a strong economy, thriving communities and a sustainable environment. In just over a year and a quarter, we have grown to 112 members across the political spectrum, representing a wide range of industries, and collectively employing thousands of workers.

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. Our policy committee and board decided to endorse HB 1107 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 will 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 addresses this pain point by creating a pilot project for an emergency services fund that nonprofits and public agencies can use to help job-seekers get what they need to get and keep a job. This fund will be good for not only our members but the broader business community because:

- Businesses need employees who are focused and productive at work – especially in a time when unemployment is at an all-time low – and this bill will help at-risk workers stay employed, focused and productive.
- The bill will reduce the high costs of employee turnover, which is even more important in this time of critical labor shortages.
- Coloradans looking to re-enter the workforce will be better able to look for and keep a job, growing Colorado's workforce.

The Employment Support Job Retention Services Program 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. Accordingly, we urge you vote yes on HB 1107.

Sincerely

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