



Madam Chair and esteemed members of the House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor,

I am writing to testify on behalf of Compassion International, a Colorado-Springs-based, Christian, global child development ministry. Compassion's model is to empower the local church in low income countries to serve the poorest of the poor. To date, Compassion partners with over 7,500 churches in 25 countries around the world, to serve more than 2 million children. Our goal is to release children from their educational, economic, physical, social and spiritual poverty...in Jesus' name. Our ministry was founded in 1952 and has been headquartered in Colorado Springs since 1980.

As to SB19-103, the bill being considered today, Compassion wishes to remain neutral. However, I would like to offer testimony as to Compassion's role regarding the lemonade stand that sparked this conversation and eventually, this proposed legislation.

In May of 2018, Compassion learned of the story regarding Dr. Jennifer Knowles, her husband, Dr. Patrick Guffey, and their three sons, Ben, William, and Jonathan, who wished to raise money for our organization by hosting a lemonade stand at a city park near their home. As you may recall, Denver media outlets told the story of how the small, roadside business venture was shut down after a complaint regarding its legality. Being an organization that believes strongly in empowering children—and wanting to honor the wishes of the family to help raise funds for less fortunate children living in poverty, Compassion decided to offer the family a "do-over." We allowed the family to set up their lemonade stand on our own property in Colorado Springs. No permit was required for the stand to be placed at our corporate headquarters. Calling it the "Second Chance Lemonade Stand", we invited the public to give the boys another chance to engage in their small business and philanthropic hopes.

Madam chair, the public showed tremendous support for this effort. Cars filled our parking lot as more than 400 people lined up for a chance to purchase a small cup of cold lemonade, and/or make a donation to the cause. The family, including the young boys, worked the table, serving customers for nearly two hours, with ear-to-ear grins on their faces. I have included a couple of photos, including the presentation of a check to Compassion for over \$8,200. When it was all said and done, over \$10,000 was raised as a result of this effort and the family's GoFundMe page. These funds will allow local churches to serve children in extreme poverty, giving them a chance at a better today and a brighter tomorrow.

Compassion is proud to have engaged in such an effort of collaboration with parents who wish to teach their children the value of giving to others. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved and will, no doubt, have a powerful, positive impact on the lives of children we may never meet in person.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee, Madam Chair. It is an honor and a privilege to do so.

Tim Glenn
Communications Principal, Compassion International