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February 1, 2018

Representative Faith Winter,

The Adams County Board of Commissioners is writing to express our support of HB18-1001 by Representatives Winter and Gray and Senators Donovan and Fields regarding Family Medical Leave Insurance Program (FAMLI). Most Coloradans do not have paid leave to care for a seriously ill family member, welcome a new baby, or recover from a personal illness. The FAMLI Act would guarantee all Colorado workers paid leave to care for themselves and their loved ones.

A small but growing number of states have statutes providing workers access to paid leave, and Colorado is one of 16 states working on family and medical leave insurance. Colorado has always been at the forefront of promoting policies that will have a broad, positive impact on the residents of our state. Voters across the country say they favor a law that would create a national paid family and medical leave fund with 61% saying they favor such a law and 44% saying they strongly favor one. Colorado has the opportunity to be one of the states leading the charge on this important issue.

The FAMLI Act is not only family friendly, but business friendly as well. The program is entirely funded and sustained through employee contributions. All employees in Colorado will contribute a small premium to the Family and Medical Leave Insurance program, estimated to be between \$2-\$5 per week for a typical full-time employee. Additionally, small businesses will be able to compete with larger companies for high quality employees since paid family leave will be automatically available.

As Commissioners, we view the FAMLI Act as a priority for our constituents to help ensure a happy and healthy community. We pride ourselves on promoting and supporting policies that will benefit both our employees and our constituents. Having to take on the added responsibility of caring for a sick loved one is an unfortunate reality for many Coloradans. This legislation will allow citizens to feel safe and secure in their jobs while trying to meet the dual responsibilities of a having a career and being a caregiver.

We strongly support HB18-1001 and urge the Colorado General Assembly to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Mary Hodge, Chair

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