

Senate Business, Labor, & Technology

01/31/2023 02:00 PM

SB23-017 Additional Uses Paid Sick Leave

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

| Name, Position, Representing | Typed Text of Testimony |
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| Effie Rorke For Feeding Colorado | <p>Chair Rodriguez and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB23-017 Additional Uses Paid Sick Leave. My name is Effie Rorke and I'm the Senior Director of Public Policy and Communications for Feeding Colorado, the state association of the five Feeding America food banks serving our state.</p> <p>Feeding Colorado member food banks include Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado, Community Food Share, Food Bank for Larimer County, Food Bank of the Rockies, and Weld Food Bank. Colorado's five food banks fight hunger by distributing food directly to people in need as well as through their network of nearly 1,200 nonprofit partner agencies statewide, distributing more than 123 million pounds of food to Coloradans last year. We feed Coloradans every day, but we also support initiatives that prevent hunger tomorrow.</p> <p>Expanding the reasons for which paid sick leave can be utilized will provide additional support for vulnerable Coloradans, many of whom are one flat tire, family emergency, or medical bill away from food insecurity. The people primarily served by food banks are low and moderate income workers, single parents, older adults, and children, many of whom were already struggling and whose challenges during the last few years have only grown. These are the same people who until recently, have largely not had access to paid time off at all, and who will benefit greatly from increased flexibility in how paid leave can be used. Everyone has experienced unpredictable circumstances in life that derail even the best-laid plans, whether it be a suddenly ill family member who requires care, an HVAC system that breaks at the most inconvenient time, or inclement weather that shuts down schools and disrupts a parent's plan for childcare. These experiences are common, and the opportunity to take paid leave from work to deal with situations like these without the threat of losing one's job or throwing a family's entire budget into a downward spiral should be too.</p> |

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| | <p>This legislation would help bolster financial stability for Colorado workers, families, and children. Please lend your support to SB23-017 and thank you to the bill sponsors for this legislation.</p> |
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