

House Business Affairs & Labor

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HB23-1078 Unemployment Compensation Dependent Allowance

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Effie Rorke  For  Feeding Colorado	<p data-bbox="565 506 1448 575">Effie Rorke, Senior Director of Public Policy and Communications, Feeding Colorado</p> <p data-bbox="565 663 1349 772">Chair Amabile and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB23-1078 Unemployment Compensation Dependent Allowance.</p> <p data-bbox="565 861 1455 1199">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. 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 our network of nearly 1,200 nonprofit partner agencies statewide, distributing more than 123 million pounds of food to Coloradans last year.</p> <p data-bbox="565 1287 1463 1703">The meals and groceries we provide to Coloradans every day are critical, but we also care deeply about reducing the number of people who need food assistance. Legislation like this will help advance that goal by providing direct financial assistance to people most at risk of food insecurity. The people primarily served by food banks are low- and moderate-income workers, single parents, older adults, and children. We also provide food to people who have temporarily fallen on hard times due to a sudden job loss, an unexpected emergency, or some other life event that snowballed and threw their household budget into disarray. These are the same people who receive unemployment compensation - Coloradans in-between their last job and their next one.</p> <p data-bbox="565 1791 1458 1936">Being unemployed is especially stressful for people with children. No parent wants their child to go hungry, and Colorado's food banks work to ensure there is food available for anyone in need so that difficult times are easier to manage. But the charitable food assistance network cannot meet</p>

	<p>the full need, or meet it alone. By providing a small additional financial benefit to individuals with minor or disabled dependents, this bill will help promote financial security and household stability for people during a challenging chapter of their lives.</p> <p>This legislation is one small way to help Coloradans maintain stability and build for a better future. Please lend your support to HB23-1078 and thank you to Representative Willford and Senator Hansen for authoring this legislation.</p>
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