



21 March 2018

Dear Colorado Representatives:

We the undersigned Colorado faith leaders express our unequivocal support for the HB 18-1001 “Family Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Act”, which creates a mechanism for workers (not employers) to pay small premiums into an insurance plan and receive partial wage replacement when they take a leave from work to care for a new child, family member, or to recover from a serious illness.

Representative Faith Winter, a sponsor of the bill, reported that in Colorado one out of four mothers return to work one week after giving birth because there are no other options.

Kathy White, Deputy Director at the Colorado Fiscal Institute testified that paid leave programs increase wages over time, reduce the cost of government benefits & turnover costs, and decrease benefit gaps between high- and low-income workers.

Doctor Tom Perrell, a physician, said that from a medical perspective, family leave and increased availability of parents improves outcomes for children, as well as the elderly, whose need for nursing home care is reduced. He also indicated that needs for abortions and assisted suicides are decreased.

Opponents provided varying arguments, the primary being that the program, even though paid by the employees, would be too much of a burden for small business owners and involves government intrusion.

“Then the Lord said, ‘I have seen the affliction of my people...and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings....’” --Exodus 3:7

As faith leaders we are called by God to see the affliction, hear the cry, know the suffering, confront the hostility and ease the burden. We invite you in your role, as political leaders in our state, to support this opportunity to ease the burden on the people of Colorado whom you represent and to whom we minister and vote yes on HB 18-1001.

Signed by 77 Colorado clergy and faith leaders (attached).