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Vice-President of Government Affairs

Testimony: HB 18-1256 Sunset Continue Civil Rights Division and Commission  
House Judiciary Committee  
March 13 @ 1:30pm HCR 0112

Good afternoon, Mister Chair and members of the committee. I'm Mizraim Cordero, Vice-President of Government Affairs at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, an organization representing over 3,000 businesses and their 300,000 employees.

We are here today to speak in support of the reauthorization of Civil Rights Division and Commission.

The Colorado Civil Rights Division exists to promote equal treatment of all people in Colorado and promote a more open and receptive environment in which to conduct business, live, and work.

Colorado law requires that all discrimination complaints are first investigated by the Division before a party goes to court. This requirement helps employers and businesses avoid frivolous, costly lawsuits, while at the same time ensuring discrimination complaints are impartially investigated.

In Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the CCRC resolved 98% of cases that somehow involved a Colorado business. Only two percent were

found to have grounds to go to court. Our members view statistics like this as affirmation that this process effectively protects employees from discrimination while helping small business owners avoid unnecessary and costly litigation.

Our members believe the Division offers a viable process to resolve discrimination disputes through arbitration and educational programs.

And we urge you to vote YES on House Bill 1256.