



Monday, February 10, 2020

Members of the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs –

Thank you, Mister Chair (or Madam Vice Chair) and members of the committee and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Dorothy Jones and I am the Director of Public Affairs at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. I am here on behalf of the Chamber, our 3,000 members and their 400,000 employees, to express our opposition of Senate Bill 84. I'm also representing the Colorado Competitive Council, an affiliate of the Chamber.

This bill would hinder a business's ability to create a safe and healthy work environment and potentially cause non-compliance when certain standards direct them to require vaccinations for their employees.

Healthcare providers in particular have a responsibility to protect their staff and their patients. Patients who are immune compromised could be exposed to dangerous diseases if medical staff are not properly vaccinated. It's irresponsible to allow employees who choose not to receive immunizations to potentially put other employees, patients, families and the general public at risk.

Additionally, preventive care, like immunizations, is a documented way to help lower the cost of health care. Influenza, a vaccine-preventable disease, costs the country \$10.4 billion annually. Over the last 20 years, the CDC estimates vaccinations will save nearly \$295 billion in direct costs and \$1.38 trillion in total costs to society. By protecting against diseases with immunizations, billions of dollars could be saved.

We urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 84.