

Thank you, Madame Chair and members of the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony today on behalf of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and our 3,000 members. I submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 1049.

At its core, this bill undermines the delicate and hard-earned balance of our labor status in Colorado.

The Labor Peace Act was established in the 1940s and represents the only compromise of its kind in the country. It ensures employees who seek union representation can organize while also giving fellow employees a voice with regard to paying union dues. This approach was developed before the Taft Hartley Act was approved nationally and continues to serve as a thoughtful, middle-ground labor solution today.

We recognize that many existing and prospective businesses would prefer Colorado adopt the right-to-work model, given its flexibility in defining jobs and assigning duties and assurance that no employee ever be forced to pay into a union that they don't support. Even so, our business community has held on to this carefully crafted compromise and continues to oppose efforts to modify it.

Colorado's Labor Peace Act represents a true compromise when it comes to the divisive discussion in our nation regarding unionization. Let's not fix what's not broken.

We maintain our support for the compromise of the Labor Peace Act and ask you to uphold it in Colorado. We urge you to vote NO on House Bill 1049.

Kelly Brough, President and CEO, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce