

Kelly Brough, President and CEO Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

In support of SB 80 Protections for Entities During COVID-19

Monday March 8, 1:30pm– Senate Business Committee

Thank you, Chair Rodriguez and members of the committee, for your consideration. My name is Kelly Brough and I write today in support of SB 80 on behalf of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, which represents 3,000 employers and their 400,000 employees.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic came as a shock to us all. Nothing has been untouched by the pandemic from our business processes to our personal lives. During this time, our members have shown flexibility, a deference to health care experts, science and creativity to keep their teams and customers safe. Employers and their employees have even served as a critical enforcer of public health requirements like the mask mandate in their places of business. This legislation recognizes the extensive work businesses have put into keeping customers safe by adjusting operations and taking measures to align with COVID-19 public health orders. Employers who have acted in this manner should be protected from lawsuits as they've done the right thing: aligned with the practices outlined by the State of Colorado.

This has certainly been a learn as you go situation, but employers who have aligned with State best practices and not acted negligently should be recognized for their work. This bill is a bipartisan, collaborative effort to do just that.

Please join us in supporting SB 80.