



Dear Colorado Families First Campaign,

Together Colorado is a nonpartisan, multi-racial and multi-faith community organization working to place human dignity at the center of public life in Colorado. We are writing this letter during an extraordinary time in our state and country as we witness an unprecedented community impact from the coronavirus pandemic.

Each day brings more news requiring the need for businesses to close their doors, increasing layoffs, and economic insecurity for many individuals in our congregations and communities who have no paid family and medical leave plans with job protection in their workplace. We all have congregants, family members and neighbors who are suddenly faced with caretaking responsibilities either to care for themselves, a seriously ill family member or a child whose school is now closed. Those who are still working are placing themselves at-risk of being exposed to the coronavirus as they work on the front lines in grocery stores, health care, law enforcement, child and elder care, and public transportation.

These times are historical and we are thankful for the emergency measures put in place by our lawmakers and Governor, creating paid family leave for certain groups. But we must take steps to remedy the gaps that have been exposed in benefits for workers who are the most economically vulnerable. This crisis further demonstrates how our current lack of a statewide, affordable and accessible paid family leave program is resulting in lost wages, loss of a job, bankruptcies and agonizing decisions about keeping a job or caring for a loved one.

We believe, as people of faith, that during our weakest moments we are called to our true moral center. That time is now and we must pass a paid family and medical leave policy to benefit all Colorado workers. It is time to bring Colorado in line with other states and countries who have seen the value in such a program. With that in mind, we want to express our strong support for this ballot initiative that would let Coloradans vote on providing a paid family and medical leave program to the hardworking people of our state.

As clergy and faith leaders, we believe that faith was the force that led our ancestors through struggle. It gave them strength in times of need when a path was not clear. In the days, weeks, and months ahead, we will keep Colorado's families in our prayers. But when this crisis is over, we want to know that Coloradans have access to a paid family medical leave policy, so that the next crisis to hit Colorado has our workers protected.

Signed by 102 Colorado Faith Leaders

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Together Colorado is a nonpartisan interfaith organization

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