## LOCAL PROGRESS COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis State Capitol Bldg 200 E. Colfax Ave. Rm. 136 Denver, CO 80203

April, 10, 2025

## Re: SB25-005

## Dear Governor Polis,

As local elected officials representing communities across Colorado, we are writing to express our strong support for the Worker Protection Act (SB25-005) and urge you to sign this critical legislation into law. Our experience working alongside labor allies, local businesses, and our working-class community members has made clear the urgent need for Colorado workers to have easier access to advocating for better working conditions. The Worker Protection Act provides a long-overdue safeguard for workers seeking to exercise their fundamental rights, ensuring that Colorado remains a leader in protecting its workforce and fostering a fair and thriving economy.

Throughout our experiences in public service, we have seen firsthand the challenges that workers face when advocating for fair wages, safe workplaces, and dignified working conditions. Too often, employees who seek to organize or push for improved conditions face retaliation, limited legal recourse, and barriers to collective action. This bill addresses these issues by empowering workers to hold employers accountable when their rights are violated. By giving workers the ability to seek legal remedies when labor laws are broken, we reinforce Colorado's commitment to justice and equity in the workplace.

Many of us have heard from community members facing wage theft, unfair labor practices, and employer intimidation. This bill empowers workers in essential industries such as service, hospitality, healthcare, and construction to advocate for their rights without fear. By strengthening enforcement and closing loopholes, the Worker Protection Act improves job quality, economic stability, and keeps Colorado thriving. We are confident that removing barriers to union organizing will not just be a victory for workers; it strengthens our local economies and communities. When workers can collectively bargain for fair wages and benefits, they reinvest in their neighborhoods, support local businesses, and contribute to a more resilient economic landscape. As local officials, we have seen the positive impact of strong labor protections in reducing income inequality and strengthening our communities. We are proud to live in Colorado, a state that prioritizes working families and economic fairness. Signing the Worker Protection Act into law will further solidify that legacy. We urge you to stand with Colorado's workers and labor allies by ensuring this essential legislation becomes law.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your continued leadership in advancing workers' rights and economic justice in Colorado.

Sincerely,

Sarah Parady, Denver City Council Member Shontel Lewis, Denver City Council Member Paul Kashmann, Denver City Council Member Amanda Sawyer, Denver City Council Member Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, Denver City Council Member Hannah Gay Keao, Edgewater City Council Member Joel Newton, Edgewater City Council Member Alison Coombs, Aurora City Council Member Crystal Murillo, Aurora City Council Member Isabel Cruz, Lakewood City Council Member Roger Low, Lakewood City Council Member John Clark, Mayor of Ridgway Christian Luna-Leal, Leadville City Council Member Shawna Ambrose, Arvada City Council Member Nina Water, Summit County Commissioner Scott Esserman. Denver School Board Director Jasmin Ramirez, Roaring Fork School Board Vice President