

To Whom It May Concern:

Rents and other living costs are increasing alongside Colorado's booming economy. Between 2012 and 2016, average rents in Colorado increased six times faster than wages. Every year, family budgets become increasingly tighter. Adding to the problem is the fact that Colorado's current minimum wage is much lower than what people need to live in many Colorado counties.

The Local Wage Option seeks to address these problematic trends. The Local Wage Option would allow local jurisdictions to adjust the minimum wage in their communities to more effectively address their local cost of living. Because living costs vary considerably among different communities in Colorado, it makes sense to allow localities to determine the minimum wage that makes sense for them.

Moreover, increasing the minimum wage helps workers, businesses and communities—urban and rural alike. For example, a growth in wages in any locality will spur consumer spending and a healthier economy. Research shows that increasing the minimum wage does not harm businesses or lead to a decrease in jobs. While rural Colorado has not benefited from Colorado's economic boom as much as urban areas, the Local Wage Option would become a tool that can help struggling communities.

People want to stay in their communities, but because local workers are not being supported with appropriate wages, many are being forced out of their neighborhoods. Everyone loses out in this scenario. Hard working Coloradans should not be forced out of the communities they love because wages are failing to keep up with rents and other living costs.

We, the undersigned [organizations/constituents], write in support of **HB18-1368, the Local Wage Option**. As community dedicated to promoting a fair and accessible economy, we strongly support passage of this critical piece of legislation.

The Local Wage Option takes meaningful strides to aid all parts of Colorado society. If you support working Coloradans, their families, local businesses, and the state economy, you should support the Local Wage Option.

Sincerely,

The Work Here, Thrive Here Coalition

## **Organizations**

9to5 Colorado  
American Friends Service Committee  
Center for Health Progress  
Colorado AFL-CIO  
Colorado Center on Law & Policy  
Colorado Education Association (CEA)  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)  
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)  
Colorado People's Alliance (COPA)  
Denver Area Labor Federation (DALF)  
Good Business Colorado  
Mi Familia Vota  
NAACP CO MT WY State Conference  
NAACP Denver  
New Era Colorado  
Padres y Jóvenes Unidos  
SEIU Local 105  
The Bell Policy Center  
Together Colorado  
United for a New Economy

## **Current or Former Elected Officials**

Adams County Commissioners, unanimous resolution in support  
Allison Hiltz, Aurora City Council At-Large  
Crystal Murillo, Aurora City Council Ward I  
Dr. Bill Hyde, Director of Adams 14 Board of Education  
Emma Pinter, Westminster City Council  
Eva Henry, Adams County Commissioner  
Maria De Cambra, Westminster City Council  
Mary Dolores Young, Boulder City Council  
Matt Johnston, Brighton City Council  
Nicole Johnston, Aurora City Council, Ward II  
Paul Kashmann, Denver City Council, District 6  
Robin Kniech, Denver City Council At-Large  
Rochelle Galindo, Former Greeley City Council Member  
Samuel Weaver, Boulder City Council  
Steve O'Dorsio, Adams County Commissioner

## **Local Businesses**

Durango Compost Company  
Effect Communications, INC  
Fire on the Mountain  
Gary's Auto Service  
Golden Real Estate, Inc  
Luba Fridnerova Architect  
Margaux's Bookkeeping, Inc  
MobilizeUS

Native Earth Landscape, Inc  
Nuance Chocolate  
Optimum Home Team LLC  
Organic India USA  
Product Architects INC  
Progressive Promotions  
Sexy Pizza/KSTKL Investments/Denver Relief Consulting  
Simple Energy INC  
Soul Salve  
Sustainable World Financial Advisors, LLC  
The Denver Game Lounge LLC  
The Wellness Center, Inside Whole Foods  
Venner Consulting

**Faith Leaders**

Rev. Alycia Erickson, Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church  
Rev. Ben Konecny, First Congregational Church  
Rev. Bill Calhoun, Presbyterian minister  
Rev. Charisa Hunter-Crump, Cairn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Christie Hanzlik, Faith Leader  
Rev. Daniel Klawitter, Deacon, Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church  
Rabbi Eliot Baskin, Metro Denver Jewish Rabbi  
Rev. Gordon Kieft, Calvary Baptist Church of Denver  
Rev. Harriott Quin  
Rabbi Hillel Katzir  
Rev. James Chapman, United Church of Christ  
Rev. Jann Halloran, Prairie UU Church  
Jeanne Orrben, Loretto Community  
Rev. Jeffrey Dodson, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Junction  
Rev. Kevin Olsen, Faith Leaders in Action  
Pastor Kirk Yamaguchi, Canyon View Vineyard Church  
Rev. Mark J Hill, Cleaves Memorial  
Rev. Neema Caughran, Center for Inner Peace  
Miguel Oaxaca, Faith Leader  
Pastor Robert Kippley, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Sarah Adam, Lutheran Church  
Rev. Steve Parke, First A.M.E Church, Pueblo, CO  
Rev. Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, Cairn Christian Church  
Rev. Wayne A. Laws, Mountain View United Church