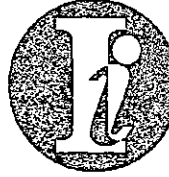


THINK FREEDOM

INDEPENDENCE
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April 20, 2017

Independence Institute letter in support of HCR-1001.

Dear committee members,

Currently the Colorado Constitution mandates that the legislative session lasts 120 days each year, and that each legislator may sponsor 5 bills each session. Since there are 100 legislators between the House and Senate chambers, there are a minimum of 500 bills that are offered each year. Yet it is difficult to believe that there are really 500 things wrong in Colorado that need to be proactively "fixed" with legislation each year.

Last year, 675 bills were actually run, because after the original 500 bills, there are "late bills" allowed, that are then rushed through in to the waning days of the session, where they face even less scrutiny due to the time constraints.

Many bills are run to try and address problems created by previous legislatures. So in addition to passing too many laws each year, state lawmakers are also passing laws that might be so poorly thought out, or that end up actually creating new problems, that they then need to be "fixed" in a subsequent legislative session. More laws are not an indicator of good laws. Thus having fewer bills run allows for more scrutiny, and a more thoughtful debate, resulting in better lawmaking.

Having fewer bills each session would also discourage bills intended only to make a point, or that are otherwise largely symbolic gestures. Since running a bill costs state taxpayers between \$5,000 and \$15,000, the legislature should be focused on substance over symbolism with regard to what bills should be run.

For these reasons, the Independence Institute supports passage of HCR-1001.

On behalf of Independence Institute,

Mike Krause
Director of Public Affairs