

NO ON 118

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2020

Governor Polis Will NOT Support Proposition #118 *State Leaders Across Colorado Praise the Gov's Leadership on the Issue*

Denver, CO – Governor Polis has confirmed that he will not support Proposition #118 on the November ballot.

Bipartisan leaders across the state are opposing Proposition #118, including organizations, trade associations and chambers such as the Colorado Women's Alliance, Club 20, the Colorado Farm Bureau, the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance and more.

If passed, Proposition #118 would implement a \$1.3 billion, state-run family and medical leave program. To fund the program, the measure requires employers and employees to pay a 0.9% to 1.2% "payroll premium," or tax deducted directly from employee wages. A political appointee in a newly created government office will oversee the program and have the authority to raise the tax.

"We sincerely appreciate the Governor's leadership on this important issue," **Campaign Co-Chair Rachel Beck, Vice President of Policy, Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC.** "Our members care deeply about their employees and sympathize with them when they face difficult personal situations like providing care for a loved one. In fact, they want to support the hard-working men and women who keep their businesses running. But this measure is not the answer."

"At a time when families are struggling to make ends meet and our economy is suffering the devastating impacts of a global pandemic, this measure doesn't make sense. We simply can't afford it," **Campaign Co-Chair Diane Schwenke, President & CEO of the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce.**

"Thank you Governor Polis," said **Campaign Co-Chair Dave Davia, Executive Vice President and CEO of Rocky Mountain MCA.** "The Governor is right not to support this measure. The numbers don't add up. Just this week an independent study determined the program to be insolvent. In other words, Coloradans will pay higher taxes for a benefit that won't be there."

"As a small business owner, I appreciate Governor Polis' thoughtful leadership on this issue," said **Campaign Co-Chair Shaun S. Egan, Chairman and CEO of Iron Woman Construction.** "Our employees work hard and we work hard to support them. Taking more money out of their paycheck for a benefit they may never receive is bad policy from the start. We can do better."

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