

*For information on those issue committees that support or oppose the measures on the ballot at the November 3, 2020, election, go to the Colorado Secretary of State's elections center web site hyperlink for ballot and initiative information:*

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/InitiativesHome.html>

## Arguments For Proposition 118

- 1) Paid leave has a positive impact on the health of Colorado families, especially new parents and those with health issues. Research has shown that offering paid leave to expectant and new mothers decreases the risk of infant mortality, and allowing parents time to bond with their children will positively affect child development. Most individuals will need to take leave to care for themselves or a loved one at some point during their careers, and this measure allows employees to do so with some financial support and job protection. The measure ensures that Coloradans will not be forced to choose between their health and their livelihood.
- 2) Paid leave will increase employment opportunities for Coloradans, and benefit the state's economy. Only 18 percent of U.S. workers currently have access to paid leave. Employees without paid leave risk being demoted or even losing their jobs if they have to take off work due to serious illnesses or to care for family members. This measure allows caretakers and those with chronic health issues to join and remain in the workforce, which will strengthen Colorado's economy. All workers deserve paid leave benefits, no matter their income level, the type of work they do, or the size of their employer.

## Arguments Against Proposition 118

- 1) This measure places a financial and regulatory burden on employers to navigate the program's complex requirements. Businesses face increased costs to accommodate paid leave and new state-mandated sick leave obligations. The measure unfairly requires large businesses, but not certain small businesses or local governments, to pay premiums to fund the program. In addition, small businesses may be discouraged from growing in order to avoid premium costs. In the end, it will be up to employers and employees to bear the cost of an uncertain and expensive new government program.
- 2) This measure requires employees to pay into a program that they may never benefit from using. Employees are already faced with job uncertainty in the current economy, and cannot afford to lose part of their salary or other benefits. If the demand for the benefit is higher than anticipated, employees will be expected to contribute an even larger percentage of wages in the future or sacrifice other workplace gains.