

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT 70

The Women's Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) is committed to creating greater opportunities for women and families to achieve economic self-sufficiency, which is why we support Amendment 70. The passage of this proposed amendment to the Colorado Constitution, which seeks to gradually increase the state minimum wage to \$12.00 by 2020, will help 290,000 women and 200,000 households with children in Colorado make progress toward economic self-sufficiency.

Our support for Amendment 70 is rooted in research that shows an increase in the Colorado minimum wage will strengthen the state economy while improving economic outcomes for women and people of color (populations that are largely over-represented in the low-wage workforce) without substantial job losses or increases in consumer prices.

After evaluating Amendment 70 from all perspectives, WFCO believes the positive economic impacts of a \$12.00 minimum wage far outweigh potential challenges some families or communities may experience associated with a minimum wage increase. WFCO is committed to working with our partners to address those limited challenges.

Through a research partnership with the Colorado Women's College Collaboratory of the University of Denver, WFCO's key questions about the impact of a \$12.00 minimum wage were answered. [*The Impact of a \\$12.00 Minimum Wage on Women in Colorado*](#), nonpartisan research funded by the Colorado Women's College, showed an increase in the minimum wage would have a significant positive impact on Colorado women and families and boost the Colorado Gross Domestic Product by \$400 million without any substantial increase in consumer prices or job losses.

This research also showed that *very* few families whose earnings will increase with \$12.00 minimum wage may become ineligible for some public assistance programs and in most of those limited cases, the boost in earnings will be greater than the value of benefits that may be

Our mission is to build resources and lead change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential.

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lost, so families still come out ahead. This finding was significant as WFCO's public policy efforts largely focus on ensuring low-income women and families may access necessary supports to meet basic needs on their paths to economic self-sufficiency while mitigating public assistance eligibility cliffs as incomes increase.

Improving access to affordable, quality child care is also a policy priority for WFCO. When considering an increase in the minimum wage, understanding the implications for child care affordability, since those who work to provide essential child care services often earn low wages, is critical. The research found that child care prices in Colorado overall would not be expected to increase and the vast majority of impacted families would maintain eligibility for child care subsidies through the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program. However, in communities with average child care wages currently below \$12.00 per hour, child care prices may increase slightly more than they otherwise would have as the minimum wage increases.

See how the proposed change to the Colorado constitution will appear on the ballot:

“Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution increasing the minimum wage to \$9.30 per hour with annual increases of \$0.90 each January 1 until it reaches \$12 per hour effective January 2020, and annually adjusting it thereafter for cost-of-living increases?”

Get more facts: For more information, please visit [Business for a Fair Minimum Wage](#).

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