MEDIA RELEASE
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Colorado Businesses Celebrate Civil Rights Division Win

**CCRD will continue to prevent frivolous lawsuits, establish positive business climate**

DENVER – Good Business Colorado applauded the state legislature for finding a workable compromise to reauthorize the Colorado Civil Rights Division and Commission tonight. The final version protected the agency’s work to reduce frivolous lawsuits by mediating civil rights complaints and create a positive business climate where customers, employers and others know they will be protected from unlawful discrimination and harassment.

“I’m delighted that legislators reauthorized the state agency that many business owners rely on to stay out of court,” said Jim Smith, owner of Golden Real Estate and Good Business Colorado member. “The Civil Rights Division saves Colorado small businesses from paying to retain a lawyer for advice on discrimination laws – that’s money kept in the pockets of business that can go towards employee pay or better deals for our clients and customers.”

Colorado law will continue to require that all discrimination complaints in employment, housing and public accommodations based on race, gender, disability, sexual orientation and other characteristics are first investigated by the CCRD before taking legal action. This investigation helps employers and businesses avoid frivolous, costly lawsuits, while at the same time ensuring discrimination complaints are impartially investigated.

“The CCRD has helped Colorado’s economy outperform almost every other state by ensuring that our businesses attract and retain a talented workforce, one that feels valued and respected,” said Luba Fridnerova, a Denver architect and member of Good Business Colorado. “As a business owner, I’m relieved that the agency will continue to give employees, customers and community the confidence that they will be treated fairly and equally in our state.”

In fiscal year 2015-2016, 737 discrimination charges against Colorado employers were filed, yet only 16 – two percent – were found by the CCRD to have probable cause. That’s well over 700 cases not taken to court, thus protecting good employers and business owners while protecting employees from discrimination.

*With 65+ business owner members, Good Business Colorado is a nonpartisan business voice for a strong economy, thriving communities and sustainable environment in Colorado.*

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