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Colorado Restaurants Grateful for House Business Affairs & Labor Committee “No” Vote on HB23-1118

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Denver, CO – **The Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA)** and restaurants across the state are incredibly relieved this afternoon, after the House Business Affairs & Labor Committee voted eight to two against HB23-1118, or restrictive scheduling. The bill is postponed indefinitely, which effectively means it has no future path forward during this Legislative Session.

The bill, known as Fair Workweek Employment Standards, would have created the most restrictive scheduling requirements in the country, and as introduced, would have applied to all restaurants, food and beverage manufacturers, and retail establishments with 250 or more employees.

“The restaurant industry is a professional haven for creative, hard-working people who need flexible scheduling so they can manage other aspects of their lives, such as childcare, school, and second jobs,” said Sonia Riggs, President & CEO of the Colorado Restaurant Association. “We are grateful to the Committee members for listening to the hundreds of restaurant operators and employees who raised their voices in force against this bill over the past several weeks. The industry is nowhere near recovered from three years of operational challenges and soaring inflation, and this bill would have irreparably harmed Colorado restaurant workers, consumers, and businesses of all sizes.”

As 641 local restaurant employees stated in a recent letter sent to the House Committee: “If you change our scheduling, you’re taking away our right to earn a living in an industry that works for us.” Today, the CRA, restaurant operators, and workers across Colorado are thrilled that HB23-1118 will not strip local restaurant employees of that right, nor punitively punish restaurant operators for accommodating their teams’ need for flexibility.

“It’s a great day for Colorado restaurants,” said Daniel Ramirez, Chair of the CRA Board of Directors and co-CEO of Ramirez Hospitality Group, which owns four Los Dos Potrillos locations in metro Denver. “My family’s business is once again free to grow and continue lifting up our employees, who deeply value the flexible scheduling we offer them. Thanks to the House Committee for their votes against HB1118, which would have destroyed my family’s American dream *and* the dreams of the 350 Coloradans who work for us.”

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About the Colorado Restaurant Association

The Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA) is dedicated to the enhancement and success of Colorado’s foodservice industry. Founded in 1933, the CRA is the leading trade organization for the state’s dynamic restaurant community. The CRA represents, educates, and promotes a \$14+ billion industry comprised of more than 12,700 eating and drinking establishments and 260,000 workers. corestaurant.org