



May 12, 2025

The Honorable Jared Polis  
Office of the Governor  
200 E. Colfax Ave.  
Room 136  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

I am writing on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) to respectfully ask for your veto of HB 1300, Worker's Compensation Benefits Proof of Entitlement.

NFIB represents nearly 7,500 small business owners across Colorado who operate in all sectors of the economy and in communities throughout our state, making small business the foundation of the economy.

Today, the workers' compensation program in Colorado works well and the provisions in HB 1300 will not improve the program for small business owners or their employees. Further, the bill would increase the cost for them to provide care for their injured workers.

Specifically, our members strongly oppose this bill for three main reasons:

1) The bill would significantly increase the number of doctors for a patient to choose from for their care to more than 1,000 from four.

The current program has a very low number of requests from patients to change physicians, and there is no compelling information that drastically increasing the physicians to choose from would improve the patient experience or improve health outcomes. An expansion in the number of physicians to choose from could result in an overwhelming experience for many patients with seemingly countless options and decisions to make.

2) Small business owners also have concerns with extending the current timeline to designate a physician.

An extended timeline can result in an unnecessary disruption to a patient's treatment and the ability to effectively recover, without any convincing benefit that additional time is better.

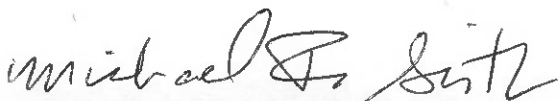
3) In addition to the programmatic aspects of the bill, this legislation would effectively increase costs on small businesses.

Today employers receive an insurance premium discount for the selection of the designated medical provider. Under this bill, the premium discount will go away, and businesses would effectively shoulder a 2.5% premium increase for the cost of workers' compensation insurance.

In conclusion, we have not seen data or a compelling rationale to indicate a systemic problem that needs to be fixed through legislation. The provisions to change the current system coupled with the additional cost on small business will have a negative impact on a workers' compensation program that, by all measures, effectively serves small businesses and their injured workers.

On behalf of our members in Colorado, we urge you to veto this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Smith".

Michael Smith  
Colorado State Director  
NFIB