



31 January 2020

To the members of the Colorado State Legislature:

We the undersigned Colorado faith leaders express our unequivocal support for SB20-029, Cost of Living Adjustment for Colorado Works Program, sponsored by Senators Fields & Moreno, and Representatives Duran & Coleman. This bill would bolster economic security for Colorado's most vulnerable families and children, by adjusting the Basic Cash Assistance ("BCA") grant amounts taking into account inflation and increased costs of housing and basic services.

Many residents who receive BCA rely on this program as their sole source of income. This resource enables greater food security, prevents homelessness, and allows families to meet their basic needs during the time when household members are acquiring the tools to gain employment in the workforce.

Families need assistance for many different reasons. As ministers we have heard many times the ways that lack of decent work that pays a living wage, lack of affordable housing, high costs of food & medical care, or an unexpected emergency or tragedy or change in relationship has left families unable to make it on their own.

Faith communities have for centuries responded to people's most basic needs through acts of charity and mercy and service. We have food banks and rental assistance programs, we house the homeless in our congregations, we volunteer at soup kitchens and we collect donations of clothing and diapers and winter coats and mittens.

Through this Basic Cash Assistance bill, you have the opportunity to impact the thousands of families in our state who participate in the program every year. Increasing the basic cash assistance to compensate for lost value due to inflation since the program was created in 1996, and establishing an annual cost-of-living increase, means that families will be better able to care for themselves as they move toward economic and social stability.

As leaders in our faith communities, our various faith traditions call us to care for our neighbors. As members of an organization committed to putting human dignity at the center of public life in our state, we know that increasing the Basic Cash Assistance available to Colorado families is a right step to take.

Signed by 158 Colorado clergy and faith leaders (attached).

WWW.TOGETHERCOLORADO.ORG

OFFICE: 303.399.2425 | FAX: 303.399.1969 | 1980 DAHLIA ST, DENVER, CO 80220

Together Colorado is a nonpartisan interfaith organization

*Congregations/Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

Rev. Jessica Abell
Living Waters Night Church
Denver

Rev. Nathan Adams
Park Hill United Methodist Church
Denver

Fr. Stephen Adams
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish
Loveland

Janet Altmann
Faith Leaders in Action
Pueblo

Msgr. Robert Amundsen
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Lafayette

Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris
Trinity United Methodist Church
Denver

Rev. Kaila Armbruster
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Grand Junction

Christine Armstrong
Director of Religious Education
Our Lady of the Meadows Catholic
Community
Pueblo

Rev. Megan Armstrong
Arvada United Methodist Church
Westminster

Rev. Adam Bailon
All Souls Church of Boulder
Boulder

Rev. Eric Banner
Jefferson Unitarian Church
Golden

Dr. Joe Barrera
The Meditation Society
Colorado Springs

Rabbi Eliot Baskin
Temple Emanuel
Greenwood Village

Rev. Bonita Bock
Wartburg West, Professor Emeritus
Denver

Susan Bolduc
ELCA Lutheran Advocacy Ministry
Colorado Springs

Rabbi Stephen Booth-Nadav
Wisdom House
Denver

Dr. Cristina Bordes
Interfaith/Interspiritual
Boulder

Che Boumatar
Two Rivers Mosque
Grand Junction

Rev. Lauren Boyd
Be3 United Methodist Church
Denver

Rev. Christina Broadway-Bauman
First Congregational Church, UCC
Boulder

Sharon Bridgeforth, President of the Board
Together Colorado
Zion Baptist Church
Denver

Rabbi Deborah Bronstein
Congregation Har HaShem
(Reform Judaism)
Boulder

Deanne Butterfield
Boulder Friends Meeting
Boulder

Rev. Bill Calhoun
Presbyterian minister, retired
Denver

Rev. Emily Cardin
Glory of God Lutheran Church
Wheat Ridge

Rev. Paul Carlson
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northglenn

Rev. Dr. Neema Caughran
Center for Inner Peace
Pueblo

Rev. Shaye Champ-Correll
Cairn Christian Church
Lafayette

Pastor Linda Cheek
Good Shepherd UMC
Thornton

Fr. Bert Chilson
St. Stephen Catholic Church
Glenwood Springs

Pastor Reg Cox
Lakewood Connects
Lakewood

Sister Nancy Crafton, SC
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, Ohio
Avondale

Rev. Darrin Crow
Heart of Junction
Grand Junction

Rev. Ian Cummins
Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church
Denver

Rev. Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson
First Congregational Church, UCC
Loveland

Elder Norm Davey
The Way Church
Centennial

Rev. Rebecca David Hensley
United Methodist
Denver

Dr. Robert Davis
Seventh-day Adventist
Denver

Rev. Tawana Davis
Soul 2 Soul Sisters
Denver

Rev. Jamielee Demske
Washington Park United Methodist Church
Denver

Mary Derbort
St. Michael Catholic Church - Canon City
Cotopaxi

Rev. Kelly Dignan
Unitarian Universalist
Denver

Rev. Sandi Dillon
Washington Park United Methodist Church
Denver

The Rev. Mary Ann Dimand
The United Methodist Church
Arvada

Rev. Amelia Richardson Dress
United Church of Christ
Erie

Rev. Wesley Dunbar
St. John's Lutheran Church
Thornton

Dr. Michael Earnest
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Denver

Rev. Emily Easton
Mountain Sky Conference,
United Methodist Church, retired
Pueblo

Para rabbi Dave Edwards
Congregation Ohr Shalom
Grand Junction

Thomas English
University Park UMC
Denver

Pastor Kathy Escobar
The Refuge
Broomfield

Fr. Michael Fay
Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Salida

Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry
Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship
Lafayette

Rabbi Brian Field
Judaism Your Way
Denver

Raymond Finney
Immaculate Heart of Mary/
John Paul II Catholic Parish
Pagosa Springs

Maureen Flanigan
Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church
Littleton

Rev. Robert Gallagher
Catholic
Colorado Springs

The Rev. Nicole Garcia
Westview Church
Boulder

Rabbi SB Gershuny
Congregation Nevei Kodesh
Boulder

Rabbi Bernard Gerson
Congregation Rodef Shalom, retired
Denver

Rev. Alane Currier Griggs
Crossroads United Methodist Church
Grand Junction

Stephen Handen, Director
Mesa House
Colorado Springs

Rabbi Kim Harris
Congregation B.nai Chaim
Morrison

Rev. John Mark Hild
Christ Congregational United Church of
Christ
Pueblo

Rev. Mark Hill, Chaplain
Cleaves Memorial AME Church
Denver

Rev. Masando Hiraoka
Mile Hi Church
Lakewood

Rev. Ted Howard
St. John's Episcopal Church
Boulder

Rev. Dr. Tracy Hughes
Mountain View United Church
Denver

Rev. Patrick Hurley
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Pueblo

Spiritual Director Ellen Ireland
Koinonia
Grand Junction

Rev. Jason Janz
Providence Bible Church
Denver

Co-Director Mary Frances Jaster
Roman Catholic
Denver

Dr. Giovannina Jobson
Boulder

Dr. Jeff Johnsen
Mile High Ministries
Denver

Rev. Nature Johnston
Episcopal Church of the Nativity
Grand Junction

Rev. Wendy Jones
UU Congregation of the Grand Valley
Grand Junction

Rev. Katie Kandarian-Morris
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Durango

Rabbi Hillel Katzir
Jewish Action Network of
Northern Colorado
Fort Collins

Sister Susan Kenney
Co-member of the Loretto Community
Wheat Ridge

Rev. Gordon Kieft
Calvary Baptist Church of
Denver

Pastor Robert Kippley
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Colorado Springs

Father Terrence Kissell
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
Aurora

Br. Daniel Klawitter
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Denver

Sister Anna Koop
Loretto Community
Denver

Rev. Paul Kottke, Superintendent
for Denver Area Churches of the
Mountain Sky Conference UMC
Greenwood Village

Tom Kowal
Mountain View Friends Meeting
Westminster

Rev. Nicole Lamarche
Community United Church of Christ
Boulder

Christopher Lamb
Foothills Unitarian Universalist Church
Fort Collins

Rev. Sharon Langfeldt
Christ Church United Methodist
Thornton

Rev. Bradley Laurvick
Highlands United Methodist Church
Denver

Rev. Wayne A Laws
Mountain View United Church
Aurora

Rev. Marnie Leinberger
Milagro Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ)
Pueblo

Rev. Laurel Liefert
Namaqua Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
Loveland

Rev. Dana Lightsey
Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder
Boulder

Rev. Inga Oyan Longbrake
Messiah Community Church, ELCA
Denver

Deacon Judy Lounsberry
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Littleton

Rabbi Evette Lutman
B'nai Havurah Denver Jewish
Reconstructionist Congregation
Denver

Brother Frank Lytle
Christ Temple Community Church
Colorado Springs

Rev. Dr. Charles MacArthur
Retired
Grand Junction

Rev. Kae Madden
The Word Proclaimed &
Church of the Beloved
Westminster

Rev. Barbara Martens
Advent Lutheran Church
Westminster

Sister Patricia McCormick
Loretto Community, Catholic
Denver

Rev. Julia McKay
High Plains Church, Unitarian Universalist
Colorado Springs

Patrick McWilliams
St. John the Baptist Episcopal
Breckenridge

Rev. Mark Meeks
Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church
Bailey

Rev. Sally Megeath
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Denver

Rev. Fidel Butch Montoya
Latino Faith Initiative
Denver

Rev. Amy Morgan
First United Presbyterian Church of
Loveland

Rev. Mike Morran
First Unitarian
Denver

Rev. David Mourn
Bethel Mennonite Church
Colorado Springs

Fr. Douglas Neel
St. Patrick Episcopal Church
Pagosa Springs

Pastor Doug Nelson
The Refuge
Arvada

Rev. Dr. Eric D. Nelson
Heritage Christian Center Church
Aurora

Dr. H. Malcolm Newton
Denver Urban Institute
Aurora

Rev. Bich Thy (Betty) Nguyen
Mountain Sky Conference of the
United Methodist Church
Denver

Rev. David Nii
Community of Christ
Denver

Rev. Kevin Olsen
United Church of Christ
Pueblo

Rev. Susan Otey
First United Methodist Church
Golden

Rev. Amy Petré Hill
Mountain View United Church
Aurora

Rabbi Iah Pillsbury
Temple Beit Torah
Colorado Springs

Rev. Rebecca Poos
Congregational United Church of Christ
Buena Vista

Dr. Sandra Powell
retired
Commerce City

Pastor Stephanie Price
The Land (United Methodist Church)
Centennial

Rev. Harriott Quin
Boulder Community UCC, retired
Lafayette

Rev. James Ray
Second Baptist Church
Boulder

Rev. Dr. Vernon Rempel
Beloved Community Mennonite Church
Littleton

Ihsan Riahi
Masjid Ikhlas Mosque
Northglenn

Rev. Dr. Anne Rice-Jones
Shorter Community AME Church
Lakewood

Rev. Ruth Rinehart
JUUST Living Sober Living
Golden

Barbara Ripperger
King of Kings Lutheran Church
Pueblo

Rev. Laura Rossbert
United Methodist Church
Denver

Rev. Anna Scott
Center for Spiritual Living Grand Junction
Grand Junction

Mary Sealing
First Congregational UCC
Grand Junction

Rev. Simon Shadowlight
Mile Hi Church
Lakewood

Rev. Dr. Douglas R. Sharp
American Baptist Churches USA, retired
Colorado Springs

Rev. Jeannie Shero
Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church
Littleton

The Rev. Debbie Metzgar Shew
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Durango

Rev. Pedro Silva
First Congregational UCC
Boulder

Rabbi Marc Soloway
Congregation Bonai Shalom
Boulder

Rev. Randy Spaulding
Boulder Mennonite Church
Boulder

Rev. Liliana Stahlberg
Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church
Dillon

Rev. Val Stepien
Eyes of Compassion Sangha
Denver

Marilyn Stranske
Saint John's Episcopal Cathedral
Denver

The Rev. Dr. Laura Sugg
Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church
Wheat Ridge

Rev. Nadine Swahnberg
Jefferson Unitarian Church
Lakewood

Sandy Taylor, Treasurer
Christ Congregational UCC
Beulah

Pastor Caitlin Trussell
Augustana Lutheran Church, Denver
Lakewood

Rev. Jeni Umble
Mennonite pastor
Broomfield

Rev. Hugo Venegas
First United Methodist Church
Pueblo

Marie Venner
Catholic Network
Lakewood

Father Joseph Vigil, Pastor
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Dean of Pueblo
Pueblo

Deborah Voss
First Congregational Church UCC
Longmont

Rev. Gary Weaver
First Presbyterian Church, Pueblo
Pueblo West

Pastor Mary Williams
First Congregational UCC
Pueblo

Rev. Wendy Williams
Jefferson Unitarian Church
Golden

Rev. Cheryl Williamson
Greater Metro Denver Ministerial Alliance
Denver

Dr. Robert Woolfolk
Agape Christian Church
Denver

Donna Young
Canon City Sangha
Canon City