



COLORADO CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

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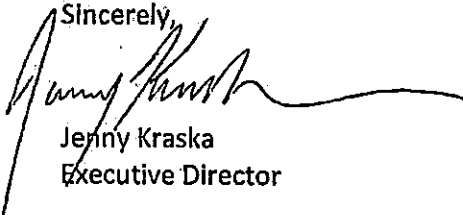
Dear Representative:

The Colorado Catholic Conference supports passage and enforcement of laws that help to create safe communities and promote the common good. Our faith teaches us that civil laws should respect the dignity of each person. A criminal offender still has dignity even when he or she violates the laws of society and fails to recognize the dignity of others.

After an offender has paid his or her debt to society, our criminal justice system should seek to rehabilitate the offender and facilitate his or her re-entry into society. The offender should not be further punished by collateral consequences; such as being denied access to work. Unfortunately, some employers disqualify applicants based on a job application's criminal history inquiry without asking any further questions about reform, capability or fitness.

House bill 1305 recognizes the dignity of workers because it provides greater protection for job applicants as they seek re-entry into society after criminal conduct. It is unreasonable for society to expect individuals to re-enter the community as productive citizens if their job application is dismissed without an opportunity to meet face-to-face and explain why they would benefit the company as an employee. As Pope Francis has reminded us on several occasions *"our system of civil justice, if it is to be humane, must incorporate mercy and forgiveness into its policies – never as an abrogation of justice, but as its fulfillment."* Please support House bill 1305.

Sincerely,



Jenny Kraska
Executive Director