



GET THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

Media Contact:
Denise White, Engagement and Communications Manager
1144 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203
303-831-6411 · dwhite@cml.org
cml.org

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

CML disappointed with enactment of SB23-111, *Public Employees' Workplace Protection*

DENVER, Colo. – Wednesday, June 7, 2023 – Following the unfortunate decision of Gov. Jared Polis to sign [SB23-111, “Public Employees' Workplace Protection,”](#) into law, the Colorado Municipal League (CML) expresses disappointment in the adoption of the law. While the signing statement from the governor calls for “robust rulemaking” by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment to clarify the legislation, CML believes the uncertainty created by the bill will only disrupt governmental services, cause litigation that will burden taxpayers, and lead to confusion about employer-employee relationships.

“The time to ‘clarify’ SB 111 was during the legislative session,” said Kevin Bommer, CML executive director. “Punting the responsibility to a state agency to determine local employment relations and management decisions gives little assurance to local leaders. Once citizens become aware of parts of the legislation, like giving their local firefighters the right to strike or allowing state agencies in Denver to determine local personnel practices, we believe they will abhor the legislature’s decision to cede authority to interpret the bill to the executive branch.”

CML supports the dedicated, hardworking employees of its member municipalities but opposed SB23-111 due to its widely conceptual nature and failure to acknowledge that current protections in federal and state law for public employee speech recognize legitimate employer interests in managing employees and responding to employee misconduct. The legislation risks politicization of personnel and management issues and decisions in municipalities, which are non-partisan. Finally, the broad, vague remedial provisions of the bill could lead to a state agency interfering in disciplinary actions, personnel investigations, and decisions that are rightly reserved to public management and the decision-making of local elected bodies.

“The breadth and scope of the direction given by Gov. Polis in his signing statement prove how deeply flawed the bill is,” said Bommer. “CML and its 270 member municipalities are disappointed in the outcome and the certain expense to taxpayers that will result.”

###

[Colorado Municipal League](#) (CML) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization established in 1923 and represents the interests of 270 cities and towns. For more information on the Colorado Municipal League, please visit [cml.org](#), call 303-831-6411 or stay connected on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).