

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Janet Redwine
303-320-3241
jredwine@yacenter.org

NEWS RELEASE

More than Lemonade: Senate Bill 19-103 Passes Committee Vote

February 12, Denver – Youth entrepreneurs, parents, and community leaders gathered at the Colorado State Capitol on Monday for a Senate committee vote on Bill 19-103, Legalizing Minor’s Businesses. Co-sponsored by Senators Angela Williams (D) and Jack Tate (R), the bill would allow youth to operate a business without a permit as long as it runs for fewer than 84 days a year, is operated by someone under the age of 18, and is located away from commercial establishments. The bill passed with a vote of 5-0.

The committee members heard powerful testimony from both youth and adults prior to their vote. Alexander Woods, 13-year-old owner of Sweet Confection, pointed out, “Many things are just given to us. Business teaches us to work hard.” Parent Jennifer Knowles summed up the argument this way: “This bill is about so much more than lemonade.”

Support also came from three Denver metro area nonprofits who came together to back the legislation and the youth entrepreneurs with whom they work: Dream Tank, Dream Culture Corporation, and Young Americans Center for Financial Education. Anna Leer, Vice President of YouthBiz at Young Americans Center, has worked with young entrepreneurs for the last six years. “Owning your own business as a kid is hard,” she said, “and it’s particularly hard if you don’t have a support system in place. Applying for a permit can be insurmountable if you don’t have adults who can help you through the process, and so many kids just give up.”

The hearing concluded with Senator Williams’s heartfelt thanks to the youth entrepreneurs who provided inspiration for this bill. “I am proud to have you all at the Capitol today,” she said. “Thank you for making this such a priority.” With a the final vote in favor of the bill, the proposed legislation will work through the Colorado Legislature in the next few weeks.

About Young Americans Center. Young Americans Center for Financial Education is a nonprofit organization committed to developing the financial literacy of young people, up to age 22, through real life experiences and hands-on programs. The Center fulfills its mission by offering programs that complement and reinforce each other to build life skills, work skills and financial self-sufficiency. These include Young AmeriTowne, International Towne, YouthBiz, Money Matters classes, summer camps and more. In addition, Young Americans Center houses the only real bank in



Youth entrepreneurs gathered at the Colorado State Capitol in support of Bill 19-103. Seated in front are Senators Angela Williams and Jake Tate, along with Governor Jared Polis.

the world for young people, Young Americans Bank, which shares the same educational mission of teaching children to be financially responsible. Since 1987, more than 834,000 youth have participated in the programs or bank. For more information on the Young Americans Center for Financial Education, visit www.yacenter.org.

####