Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

200 E. Colfax

Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

As a Coloradoan and member of our state’s growing yoga community, I am writing to ask you to support **SB186**, a critical piece of legislation that will protect yoga teacher trainings (YTTs) from unnecessary and costly regulations imposed by the Division of Private Occupational Schools (DPOS). This important bill has already been approved by the Senate, and now **we need your help**. For the following reasons, please vote **YES** **for** **SB186**:

* **Regulation of YTTs is a solution in search of a problem.** After years of operating without interference from the DPOS, the yoga community is unaware of any significant consumer complaints about YTTs in Colorado. Plus, students are still protected by federal, state, and local regulations. If the current system isn’t broken, why “fix” it?
* **YTT programs are avocational activities, not occupational education**.TheDPOS is supposed to regulate “occupational education.” However, the majority of YTT students attend classes for personal improvement. Only a small fraction pursue yoga as a profession.
* **The yoga community already has it covered.** Many YTTs are registered with Yoga Alliance Registry, a national non-profit organization that sets voluntarystandards for YTTs. Further, participants of YTTs can utilize the registry’s “Social Credentialing” system to review and rate their training to help maintain consumer protections.
* **There’s already ample precedent**. Arkansas, New York, Texas, and Virginia have already passed laws to protect YTTs from unnecessary government interference. Shouldn’t Colorado, one of the “Meccas of Yoga” in the United States, join them?
* **Regulation does more harm than good for small business.** The DPOS’ fees start high and can grow into the thousands of dollars. Many Colorado YTTs are small, independent, women-owned businesses with tight budgets. Our community has already heard about **several** **studios that may close their doors or move out of state** because of the DPOS’ regulations.
* **High fees = unfair advantage.** The extensive and expensive regulations set forth by the DPOS unfairly favor large, established studios, creating an unfair advantage for larger studios and establishing a barrier to entry for small, independent yoga studio entrepreneurs.
* **One size does not fit all when it comes to yoga.** Forcing studios into “one-size-fits-all”regulations would inevitably water down the diverse practice of yoga, a practice that has been around for centuries.

I hope you will join us. Please support the yoga community and small businesses in Colorado by supporting **SB186**.

Sincerely,

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