



Members of the Colorado State Senate

Colorado State Senate
200 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80203

RE: SB26-134, “Payment Card Networks’ Fees” — Considerations for Small Businesses and Working Families

Dear Members of the Colorado Senate,

On behalf of Mi Casa Resource Center, a Denver-based nonprofit that has served Colorado’s working families and aspiring entrepreneurs for nearly 50 years, I am writing to share perspective on SB26-134, “Payment Card Networks’ Fees,” and its potential implications for the communities we serve.

Since 1976, Mi Casa has operated Colorado’s only Women’s Business Center under the U.S. Small Business Administration, providing business development, career training, and economic mobility services. Through this work, we engage daily with small business owners, first-time entrepreneurs, and working families navigating complex financial systems. Based on this experience, we offer the following considerations.

Implications for Small Business Operations

While SB26-134 is intended to support small businesses, its structure may introduce operational complexity. The removal of standardized interchange rates could require small businesses to navigate individualized payment arrangements across multiple financial institutions—an administrative burden that many small enterprises are not equipped to manage. Unlike large retailers with dedicated financial and legal teams, smaller businesses often operate with limited capacity and infrastructure.

Point-of-Sale and Transaction Challenges

Many small businesses—particularly startups and microenterprises—rely on basic or older point-of-sale systems. The proposed changes related to sales tax and interchange fees may require transaction separation or system upgrades. For businesses operating on thin margins, even small disruptions at the point of sale can impact customer experience and revenue consistency.

Impact on Community-Based Financial Institutions

Community banks and credit unions play a critical role in expanding access to financial services, particularly for underserved communities. Changes to interchange revenue structures may influence the products and services these institutions are able to offer, including low-cost accounts and small-dollar lending options that many families depend on.

Role of Credit Card Rewards in Small Business Sustainability

Many entrepreneurs use credit strategically to manage cash flow, including leveraging rewards programs tied to business expenses. These programs often function as informal reinvestment tools, helping offset operational costs such as supplies, travel, and overhead. Changes that affect these benefits may have downstream effects on how small businesses manage limited resources.

Consumer Protection and Fraud Prevention

Interchange fees also support fraud detection and cybersecurity systems that protect both businesses and consumers. As financial transactions become increasingly digital, maintaining strong protections remains an important consideration—particularly for small businesses that may not have independent fraud mitigation systems in place.

Mi Casa Resource Center remains committed to advancing economic mobility and ensuring that small businesses and working families have access to tools that support their success. We appreciate the opportunity to share insights from the communities we serve and hope these considerations are helpful as you evaluate SB26-134 and **strongly urge you to vote “NO” on SB26-134.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful leadership.



Angeles Ortega
Chief Executive Officer
Mi Casa Resource Center



Melba Easter-Velazquez
Director
Women Business Center