



**Mizraim Cordero**  
Vice President of Public Affairs

Testimony: SB17-101 9th and 10th-grade Assessments In Public Schools  
Senate Education

*February 16, 2017*

Good afternoon, Chairman Hill, Vice Chairman Priola, Senator Todd and members of the committee.

My name is Mizraim Cordero and I am the Vice President of Public Affairs at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce represents over 3000 large, medium and small employers throughout Colorado, who combined employ over 300,000 employees.

For 150 years, the Chamber has been a voice for both small and large businesses across the state. We also have been and will remain engaged in education **policy decisions**, as we know that today's students are tomorrow's **workforce**.

Our members recognize education as a **pillar** that supports a healthy and thriving economy and business community.

In just three years, it is anticipated that **74 percent** of jobs in Colorado will require a post-secondary degree. Simply put, we must grow our own qualified and highly-educated workforce here in Colorado to meet this need. We cannot continue to rely on importing talent.

That is why we are **committed** to improving graduation rates as well as college and post graduate training **readiness**.

And it's also why I'm here in **strong opposition** to SB17-101, which removes critical assessments from 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

The business community is very supportive of assessing student achievement and growth. The results of these **assessments**, inform student and family decisions about school options.

With **strong** statewide assessments like these comes:

- Data that can inform school choices for parents and students;
- The opportunity to identify weaknesses and intervene when a student needs remediation (by the way, about 37 percent of Colorado kids do), ultimately saving parents, students and schools money;
- Enhanced transparency through diverse local input from educators, parents and business and community leaders on standards and assessments; and
- Better understanding of the product of our education system.

That is why on behalf of our membership, I respectfully ask for this committee to **vote NO** on Senate Bill 101. Thank you.