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Testimony: SB17-114 Accountability In Elementary And Secondary Public Education
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 engage in education **policy decisions**, because 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 less than three years, **74 percent** of jobs in Colorado will require a post-secondary degree or certificate. Colorado is tied with Minnesota as the states with the highest need for educated workers. A need of that scope requires that we be able to not only attract qualified workers, but also grow our own educated workforce at home – our economic **success** depends on it.

In 2010, the **business community** joined together with education, civic, and nonprofit leaders to help pass education reform in Colorado to

ensure future success for our children and a well prepared workforce to help continue our **economic growth**.

Together we remedied structural problems in our education system by putting strict accountability measures in place, giving teachers and school leaders the power to choose who works in their classrooms, and rewarding educators for effective performance.

SB17-114 **sabotages** the progress of educators across the state in the last 6 years, it **impedes** the momentum we've established through a modern evaluation system, and **thwarts** the benefits that our teachers, school leaders and our students have gained from the well working system we have in place.

On behalf of our membership, I respectfully ask for this committee to **vote NO** on Senate Bill 114. Thank you.