



Testimony on HB20-1002 – College Credit for Work Experience
January 28, 2020

- **Good afternoon Madam Vice-Chair and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this proposal today.**
- **My name is Lauren Masias and I am the new Director of the Colorado Competitive Council. C3 is a statewide coalition of employers, associations, and chambers of commerce that advocate to keep Colorado's business climate competitive.**
- **I am here on behalf of C3 and the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce in support of HB 1002 and would like to thank the sponsors for bringing this great idea forward.**
- **The number one consistent business concern we hear from our investors and our chamber of commerce partners around the state is the lack of skilled applicants for unfilled jobs in manufacturing, construction, health care, hospitality – almost every industry in the state.**
- **Because of the growing demand for skilled employees, we both have to better prepare our kids as well as find additional avenues for more adults to complete degrees or training.**
- **For many working adults, the time and money of going back to school can conflict with all their other life and work responsibilities.**
- **This bill gives those working adults and non-traditional learners opportunities to advance toward a degree or credential, which increases the likelihood they will take that plunge – resulting in a more skilled workforce and more students enrolling in our colleges and universities.**

- **We are very supportive of work-based learning and competency-based programs for students and this bill increases the value of their work experience and helps build a more qualified worker pipeline.**
- **We appreciate the bill sponsors thoughtful approach on this bill and thank you for the opportunity to be here. I look forward to getting to know all of you better as I embark on this new assignment and I ask for your support of HB 1002. Thank you.**