

SB21-106 Concerning Successful High School Transitions

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

House Education

Kelly Brough, President & CEO, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Support Testimony

Thank you, Madame Chair and members of the committee, for the opportunity to provide this written testimony today. My name is Kelly Brough and I am the President and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. I submit this testimony on behalf of the Chamber, our 3,000 members and their 400,000 employees, to express our support of Senate Bill 106.

We supported the initial legislation in 2019 that created the pilot program this legislation expands on because it allowed more students to participate in apprenticeships and other programs that provide real-world work experience. It is imperative we continue to work together to ensure all students have access to a quality education and to better prepare Colorado students to join the workforce of the future.

This legislation aligns with the Chamber's long-held desire to provide tailored, career-based training to kids earlier in their education journeys. Policies that connect more students to career-related education, provide equitable access for students of all socioeconomic backgrounds, and accelerate and expand high-quality career pathways are good for Colorado students, families and our state's economic future.

Our state's competitive advantage is our talented workforce, but if we don't get more of our students to and through post-secondary education, we could jeopardize that advantage. Let's ensure we position our kids for a good economic future. We ask that you vote yes on Senate Bill 106.