

[HB 1065 Veteran's Hiring Preferences](#)

Thursday, April 1, 2021

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

Testimony from Kelly Brough, President and CEO, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Thank you, Mister 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 am here today on behalf of the Chamber, our 3,000 members and their 400,000 employees, to express our support of House Bill 1065.

At the Chamber, we are committed to supporting Colorado's 400,000-plus veterans as they transition into the civilian workforce. Veterans have transferable knowledge, leadership skills and work ethic that make them valuable employees.

We partner with the University of Colorado Denver on the Boots to Suits program to pair veteran and active military students with business and public service professionals who provide transition and support services so these students may become leaders in our community. Our board has also adopted a resolution that promotes hiring veterans.

Through our work, we've had the opportunity to see first-hand how veterans make incredible employees. This bill clarifies that it is not discriminatory or unfair labor practice for a private employer to give hiring preference to a veteran or their spouse in specific circumstances as long as they are as qualified or more as other applicants for a position. This supports our troops as they transition into the workforce. We urge you to vote yes on House Bill 1065.