

HB21-1264 Funds Workforce Development Increase Worker Skills

Wednesday, May 12 2021

SENATE BUSINESS, LABOR, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Chair: Sen. Robert Rodriguez

1:30 PM SCR 352

Thank you, Mister Chair and members of the committee, for the opportunity to provide this testimony today. My name is Laura Rizzo and I am the SVP of external affairs for 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 for House Bill 1264.

Thank you to bill sponsors Rep. Tom Sullivan, Rep. Mary Young, Sen. Chris Kolker and Sen. Dennis Hisey for advancing this important bill and responding to our feedback.

As our economy changes, we know upskilling and next-skilling workers are critical strategies for getting more Coloradans to work in great jobs. Strategic investment in training for unemployed and underemployed workers during times when unemployment is high gets people back to work, connects employers with qualified employees, and prompts economic recovery and reductions in unemployment, which is good for all of us in Colorado.

We know jobs change people's lives and are excited to support this bill that will get more Coloradans back to work. Knowing that our state is unique – and different regions and demographic groups in Colorado face unique challenges, we also think it's critical to look at not only the statewide unemployment rate, but unemployment by geography and workforce development area, which is exactly what this bill does. We ask for your support of HB 1264 as a thoughtful approach to workforce development and training Coloradans for the future of work.

Thank you!