

## SB22-145 Resources to Increase Community Safety

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE | 2:00 PM SCR 352

Virtual Testimony: Support

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Jessica Kostelnik, and I'm a government affairs manager at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. I'm here today to express the support of the Chamber and our statewide affiliate, the Colorado Competitive Council (C3), for Senate Bill 145.

Our members, and the people they employ, have expressed concerns regarding safety in the downtown area. As many employers transition back to in-person workplaces, it is of vital importance that these businesses and employees feel confident in their safety while at work. We cannot create a vibrant downtown without providing confidence to businesses that rely on in-person traffic that their teams and customers are safe. This bill provides additional resources to increase community safety, which directly benefits businesses, employees, and consumers. It is a step in the right direction of restoring the booming and competitive economy in our state.

The program's two-year length allows our communities to meet the moment without committing to a long-term budget item. We feel this is appropriate and proportional to the increased crime rates in the metro area, and allows the legislature to be responsive to increased crime due to the pandemic and social unrest.

We urge the members of this committee to vote yes on this bill.