

## SB22-146 Middle Income Access Program Expansion

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Senate Local Government 2:00 pm | SCR 357

Written Testimony: Support

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Matt Gorenc, and I'm government affairs manager at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. I submit this written testimony on behalf of the Chamber and our statewide affiliate organization the Colorado Competitive Council (C3) in support of Senate Bill 146.

Colorado's vibrant and competitive economy has attracted a highly skilled and educated workforce. However, we struggle to retain this workforce in the face of skyrocketing housing prices. Colorado's "missing middle" are the middle-class workers who are the backbone of our businesses and the drivers of our economic growth. This demographic of Coloradans is often overlooked when the state drafts legislation to address affordability and workforce support. We believe it is essential that Colorado's middle-class be considered when discussing our available housing supply and the housing continuum, and one that is crucial to support so we can maintain our strong economic climate.

This program has proven to be effective in the past, and we applaud the state legislature for considering its continued funding. Maintaining a vibrant and competitive workforce is imperative for our economic recovery and growth and assisting people to access affordable housing is an integral part of this formula.

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