



## HB23-1174 Homeowner Insurance Underinsurance

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Upon Adjournment | HCR 0112

House Business Affairs and Labor

Testimony: Oppose

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and committee members,

My name is Matt Gorenc and I am Government Affairs Manager for the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and Metro Denver EDC. For over 155 years, we have been a leading voice for Colorado's business community, advocating for sound policy that strengthens our economy and makes our state the best place to live, work and do business.

I'm here today to express our members' opposition to HB23-1174.

We understand that this bill is a response to some devastating fire seasons the state has been experiencing. We acknowledge that fire seasons have gotten longer and more brutal than in any time we can remember. These disasters often destroy the most valuable asset most families own—their homes.

While we understand the intent of this bill is to improve insurance coverage for communities in higher fire danger, these bills come with real costs for Coloradans, especially at a time when housing costs have never been higher and homeownership has never been more out of reach. We trust that homeowners can make the best decisions for themselves about how much insurance coverage they would like to take out on their home. Some homeowners prefer to have more coverage than others, and each has weighed the costs and benefits and arrived at the conclusion that works best for them. This bill creates a one-size-fits-all mandate which would take away the ability of homeowners to decide how best to run their households, and at the same time would increase homeowners' insurance costs across the board. Just this week, the *Denver Post* published an article highlighting that Colorado homeowners can expect a sharp increase on their property tax bill—this bill only adds to those costs and puts our workforce in an even tighter financial bind. We support policies that lower costs for homeowners and allow them to choose how best to manage their assets and purchases.

We encourage the committee members to vote no on this bill.