



[HB24-1237 Program Incentives for the Development of Childcare Facilities](#) | Rep. Mary Bradford (R), Rep. Meghan Lukens (D), Sen. Janice Marchman (D), Sen. Janice Rich (R)

Time: Wednesday, March 6th @ 1:30PM, (2nd bill)

Location: Transportation, Housing, and Local Government, Old State Library

Committee Chair: Meg Froelich

Position: Support

Testimony:

- Good afternoon, Madam Chair and fellow committee members.
- My name is Drea Modugno, and I am here on behalf of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce which represents over 1,000 businesses in the Denver Metro Area. Over 80% of which are small businesses.
- Today I am here to share our support for HB1237.
- The Chamber's central priority is to make Colorado a great place to live and work.
- As previously detailed here today, finding affordable and accessible childcare is a massive challenge for working parents. The Bell Policy Center has identified only two counties in Colorado with enough licensed childcare capacity to serve the number of children in the county.
- Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, an affiliate of the Chamber, is a regional economic development organization that works to attract companies and talent into the state.
- They talk with companies every day who are considering relocating or growing their businesses in Colorado and trying to understand if our state would be a good place for their employees to live and work.
- Talent supply, or more accurately talent shortages, are often articulated as the number one concern of business owners in the state as it relates to long term growth, success and sustainability.
- Childcare resources are significant components of quality of life and access to meaningful career-oriented work, and thereby drivers of talent attraction and retention for the state.
- The cost of childcare in Colorado ranks among the most expensive in the country. The organization [Child Care Aware](#) listed Colorado in the top five least affordable states for toddler and infant care in 2017 and in the top 10 in 2020.
- We have found the lack of affordable childcare in Colorado to be a major factor for companies choosing whether to move here or not and this bill seeks to help fill that gap.
- A strong, sustainable childcare and early education system is essential to our workforce. By incentivizing community planning for family care, we are helping ensure that parents can go to work, and the economy can continue to thrive.
- We appreciate the opportunity to share our support today and respectfully ask this committee for a yes vote on HB1237. Thank you.