

House Education

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HB23-1114 First-generation-serving Higher Ed Institutions

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Amelia Federico For MSU Denver and Young Invincibles	<p>Hello and good afternoon committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with you today. I am Amelia Federico, I have lived in Denver my whole life, I attend MSU Denver, and I am a policy fellow with Young Invincibles.</p> <p>HB 1114 creates a first-gen serving institution (FSI) designation in the state of Colorado. First generation students are critical to the success of our state. They play an important role in contributing to civil society and meeting Colorado’s workforce needs. Many first-gen students rely on additional support, wrap-around services, and a peer community in order to thrive, remain in school, and graduate. This FSI designation recognizes the higher ed environments where first-gen students can readily find these critical supports.</p> <p>I am very grateful to attend a University like MSU where I feel seen and valued as a first gen student. Importantly, Having a sense of belonging is key to student success, and particularly for first-gen students, like me. With this designation, students will be able to more easily identify schools like MSU Denver where they are the norm and not the exception. Having classmates who share the first gen identity, faculty who understand the first-gen experience, and services that are focused on first-gen support can make all the difference in making a student feel like they belong.</p> <p>Lastly, the designation will also help identify the colleges and universities doing meaningful work enrolling and supporting first-generation students so that other institutions of higher education can learn from effective practices. I know we can work to ensure Universities like MSU Denver that serve our students who need and deserve the most support. We must recognize the higher ed environments where first-gen students can readily find these critical supports with an FSI designation. Together, let’s work to pass HB 1114, and I ask for your YES vote today. Thank you.</p>