



April 2024

To: Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee

Re: AAUW Support for HB1273--Renewal of the Veterans Assistance Grants Program

Dear Committee Members:

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. More than 700 community leaders are AAUW members in local branches around the state.

For the past 50 years women have become a growing segment of America's armed forces. Today, women make up 10% of Colorado Veterans, and the number grows each year.

AAUW supports the progress the armed forces have made to address the barriers and implicit biases that women face. Yet, once these women leave the military, they often face new challenges in civilian life. The Veterans Assistance Grants Program has provided critical services to our women Veterans for the past 10 years.

The annual fiscal impact is a small price to pay for keeping our women Veterans in Colorado where they can continue to contribute their skills and talent to our economy.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado urges your AYE vote on House Bill 1273 to renew the VAG Program so we can continue this important benefit for our women Veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

**Su Ryden**

**AAUW of Colorado Public Policy Co-Director**

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*American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*