

Wednesday, January 24, 2024



Colorado House of Representatives
Education Committee
Representative Barbara McLachlan, Chair
Delivered Electronically

Subject: Letter of Support for HB24-1082

Dear Representative McLachlan and Committee Members,

As the elected Student Body President of the Associated Student Government of Colorado Mesa University, I am charged with representing the more than 10,000 students attending our university to school administration, internal and external stakeholders, and local and state governments. It is in this capacity that I voice my support for HB24-1082: First-Generation-Serving Higher Education Institutions, and ask that you do everything in your power to see that this legislation is enacted.

As the first person in my family to attend post-secondary education, I have experienced first-hand the struggles and sacrifices those in my position must face on the path to graduation. One of the reasons I chose to attend Colorado Mesa is because of the resources and support this place provides to students like me, and I firmly believe this dedication to serving those with the most to gain from a college education deserves to be recognized.

Attached to this letter you will find a Joint Resolution issued by our government's House of Representatives and Senate that emphasizes my organization's support of this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Aleena Gomez
Student Body President
Colorado Mesa University
(909)472-7219 | amgomez2@mavs.coloradomesa.edu

-Official Record-



ASG Joint Resolution 24-01

Sponsors: Senate Leader Stebbins, House Speaker Salunke

Concerning: A Resolution of Support for HB24-1082, A bill before the Colorado State Legislature Concerning the designation of state institutions of higher education as first-generation-serving institutions.

Date Submitted: 01/17/2024

Students Affected: All

***THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY
HEREBY FINDS AND DELCARES THAT:***

1. Approximately 50% of students currently in attendance at our university are the first in their family to pursue post-secondary education, which is one of the highest rates in the state of Colorado.
2. First-generation students often lack mentors and role models with collegiate experience, which is shown to contribute to student success.
3. Colorado Mesa University prides itself in offering services and support for these students to achieve their goals, allowing students of many backgrounds to pursue higher education.
4. Recognizing this dedication to the service of first-generation students will empower first-generation students to attend college or university, and reap the benefits of post-secondary education.
5. The Colorado State Legislature has positioned itself to address this issue.

In consideration of these facts, ***IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY THAT:***

1. This body, as representatives of the student population at CMU, voices its strong support for HB24-1082, and urges the Members of the Colorado General Assembly to vote in the affirmative for the same.
2. Copies of this Resolution shall be sent to the bill's sponsors, all committees of reference that this bill goes before, Colorado Governor Jared Polis, Colorado House Speaker Julie McCluskie, and Colorado Senate President Steve Fenberg.

01/22/2024

DATE



SIYA SALUNKE
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

1/24/2024

DATE



GRACE STEBBINS
SENATE LEADER



1/24/2024

DATE



ALEENA GOMEZ
PRESIDENT

