

House Finance

02/17/2022 Upon Adjournment

HB22-1048 In God We Trust Special License Plate

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Vail Hanlon  For  Self	I am a very proud American and would love to have one of these plates.
JOHN PRIECKO  For  Self	<p>ATTENTION: Colorado House of Representatives Finance Committee</p> <p>I planned to be there in person February 17th, but have foot surgery the day before. Thus, I'm submitting written testimony. I am honored to support this worthy endeavor and passage of House Bill 22-1048.</p> <p>I am a grateful and proud Military veteran who served 25 years as a Pilot in the United States Air Force. Career features include a tour of duty on the Joint Staff in the Pentagon as the Chief of Strategic Operations and Training. Another highlight was serving as a B-1 Squadron Commander and Instructor Pilot.</p> <p>The most rewarding efforts after my Military service, are as the Vice President, Global Trade Compliance, with J.P. Morgan Chase &amp; Company. Additionally, and currently, I am the President and Managing Partner of Trade Compliance Solutions, a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business.</p> <p>In the way of background related to this Legislation, my wife Sandy and I moved here from Virginia in July 2019, to be closer to our two adult sons. When we registered our vehicle, we discovered Colorado did not have an "In God We Trust" or similar license plate as we did in Virginia and 23 other states.</p> <p>In June of last year, I attended a Leadership Conference and met Kurt Huffman from State Representative Mark Baisley's Office. A lunch time</p>

	<p>discussion with Kurt that day is the catalyst for this Special License Plate effort. The artist’s concept we developed is what we envision as a very professional and visually appealing end-product. We believe our design is the best out there.</p> <p>“In God We Trust” is our Official National Motto adopted by the United States Congress. It appears on our paper money, coins, in courtrooms, and on government and state office buildings across America. It is appropriate, fitting, and timely that Colorado creates an “In God We Trust” Special License Plate. We are passionate about our Country, our Flag, our National Motto, and this important initiative.</p> <p>My family and I urge passage of House Bill 22-1048. Further, colleagues, coworkers, friends, fellow veterans, and neighbors also support the Bill. Likewise, those same people look forward to purchasing and displaying the plate as soon as it can be purchased. Many have said they would buy it now if it was available.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>John P. Priecko, Colonel USAF (Retired)</p> <p>Life Member: Air Force Association &amp; Disabled American Veterans; 22683 E. Glidden Dr., Aurora, CO 80016-7388; jpriecko@comcast.net; 703-895-1110</p>
<p>Linda White For Self</p>	<p>Attention: CO House of Representatives Finance Committee</p> <p>Committee Members:</p> <p>I had registered to testify in person for the Feb 17th hearing in support of House Bill 22-1048. Unfortunately, I was diagnosed with influenza A making a personal appearance impossible.</p> <p>Before moving to Colorado 40 years ago my husband and I grew up in a small town in South Dakota. Our values shaped during those years centered around God, country and family. We raised our 2 children here in</p>

	<p>CO with those same values. These same values have been passed on to our seven grandchildren. Our entire family resides in this beautiful state.</p> <p>A few months ago, I became aware of the possibility of an "In God We Trust" CO license plate. I have never had an interest in displaying a special license plate, until now. I did a little research and was surprised to learn that CO offers over 125 special license plate types. A CO resident can obtain an, Adopt A Shelter Pet plate, a Greyhound Lovers plate, Support a Horse plate, Italian American Heritage plate, and many more but no, "In God We Trust" plate.</p> <p>"In God We Trust" is our National Motto. My family and I urge passage of House Bill 22-1048. Many of our friends, neighbors and family look forward to purchasing and proudly displaying this plate as soon as it can be purchased.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.</p> <p>Sincerely,          Linda White          22931 E Del Norte Circle          Aurora CO 80016</p>
<p>Fred Lewis          For          Self</p>	<p>Good day Rep, Baisley and fellow committee members. I am submitting this testimony to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed "In God We Trust" Special License Plate for Colorado. I am aware that other states have such plates, and it is fitting that Colorado be among them. I would be honored and proud to have this beautifully designed tag on my vehicles.</p>

Colorado Rural & Frontier Preceptor Tax Credit Testimony

House Finance Committee

HB22-1005

2/17/2022

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee,

Thank You for allowing me to speak today in support of HB22-1005. My name is Janice Baker, Clinical Coordinator for the Physician Assistant Program at the University of Colorado. Having worked in this position for 9 years, I am responsible for securing over 650 clinical rotations placing 132 PA students into medical training through their 3 years of PA school.

Our program offers each of these 132 students rural rotations during their course of study – preferably in a primary care setting as our program is designed to educate primary care PAs.

It is no secret that there is a shortage of medical providers to meet patient needs in rural Colorado. By placing students in rural areas for training, our goal is for these students realize the impact they can make in rural communities and the high-quality patient care they can provide in rural settings following graduation.

In addition to our University of Colorado PA students experiencing rural rotations during their training, we have students graduating in 2023, who were selected through an application process to participate in our Rural Track program. The selected students provided evidence for and expressed a specific desire to meet the medical needs of rural and underserved populations. These students plan to practice in a rural area following graduation and are required to complete at least one 2-month rural family medicine rotation during their 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year of study. Most of our Rural Track students request other clinical rotations in rural settings. In addition, many our Traditional track students request training opportunities in rural communities.

Apart from the year 2020 the number of preceptors qualifying for the Tax Credit has increased steadily from the first year of the opportunity in 2017 through 2021. Over these years, our PA program has certified 94 preceptors for the Preceptor Tax Credit. Our hope is that the Tax Credit funding will continue in order to encourage the current path for rural preceptors to medically train our students.

Throughout my 9 years of placing students in clinical rotations, I have found that rural placements can be challenging to acquire. We know providers are very busy meeting the medical needs of their patients. We recognize that with the responsibility of precepting students comes additional obligation and time commitment. These preceptors are unpaid volunteer faculty of the University of Colorado. The funding has been extremely helpful in securing placements for our students to experience rural medical training. The Tax Credit offers encouragement for providers to incorporate teaching into their clinical time. These preceptors are training learners to be the next generation of clinicians, ultimately encouraging increased availability of quality healthcare to patients in rural Colorado.

Madam Chair, Committee Members, I respectfully request favorable consideration of HB22-1005 to continue funding this important and valuable initiative to meet the needs of medically underserved areas in rural Colorado.

Thank you for your time,

Janice Baker, MHR

Clinical Coordinator, University of Colorado PA Program

## Testimony for HB22-1005 Health Care Preceptors Tax Credit

Madam Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the time to present to you today. My name is Peggy Walsh, I am a PA and I'm representing the Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants. I am here today to testify in support of HB22-1005.

PAs are healthcare providers who evaluate patients, prescribe medications, order tests, make diagnoses and develop treatment plans as part of the medical team. The PA profession was established as a means of expanding access to quality healthcare by filling gaps in areas of high medical need and have been an essential component of providing care in rural areas since the time of its inception. Nearly 20% of PAs nationally practice in rural areas, though only 13% of Colorado PAs are in rural practice. Much of Colorado's geographic area is designated as rural, and concurrently designated as areas of healthcare provider shortage. It is imperative that Colorado continues initiatives to increase the number of providers that care for Colorado's rural populations.

It is known that students that train in a rural setting are more likely to return to practice in this setting upon graduation. Expanding opportunities for PA students to complete clinical training in Colorado rural areas is critical. This bill will do just that.

In general, the need for high quality clinical education sites for PA students is one of the most critical issues facing the PA profession. The scarcity of adequate clinical training sites is a multi-faceted problem that affects most health care professions, and the solutions are not simple. Some healthcare providers choose to precept students in order to give back to the profession and are intrinsically motivated to train future providers. As has been shared previously, precepting students does require more time and resources, which is often cited as a barrier.

PA education traditionally involves 12-14 months of classroom training followed by 12-14 months of hands-on clinical education. PA students must gain meaningful clinical experience in seven core specialties, including family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, women's health, behavioral health, emergency medicine and surgery. PA student train with various healthcare professionals, including PAs, physicians, and other licensed healthcare providers. One specialty that is often difficult to recruit preceptors is behavioral health. Expanding this tax credit to include mental health professionals, such as licensed clinical psychologists, social workers and counselors will provide additional incentive for these professionals to precept PA students, and increase the likelihood that these PAs choose to practice in rural areas upon graduation.

On behalf of the Colorado Academy of PAs, we ask for your support of HB22-1005 and thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Walsh  
Past President, Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants

**February 16, 2022**

Madam Chairperson and Finance Committee members, my name is Mark Deutchman and I am a family medicine doctor and serve as director of the CU School of Medicine's Rural Program. We attract, admit and teach students who aspire to live and work in rural and frontier communities. Earlier in my career, I practiced as a family doctor in a rural town of 2000 people.

One of my responsibilities is traveling across rural Colorado to recruit and support volunteer teachers, also known as preceptors, who bring our students into their clinics and hospitals for nearly a full year of training. This teaching takes the preceptor's time and effort and decreases their productivity by a few patients each day. As Colorado's only public medical school, we do not pay preceptors and the \$1,000 tax credit provides recognition for their service.

Rural clinical experience is a vital part of the education and encouragement of our students who are interested in rural practice. It keeps their interest in rural life and work alive during their years of training and places them with credible and inspiring role models out in the real world. Most of our students tell us that they would rather remain at their rural placement sites than return to the city. In addition, our graduates who are now practicing in rural Colorado return the service as preceptors for current students. This small investment serves valuable for supporting the pipeline of health providers in rural communities.

I have been involved with drafting and supporting the previous preceptor tax credit legislation, have personally seen how it benefits and encourages our preceptors and urge you to renew it with the revisions written into HB22-1005.

Thank you.

Mark Deutchman, MD

Director, CU Rural Medicine Track

Family Physician

2-16-22

House Finance Committee  
Colorado House of Representatives

Re: Rural Preceptor Tax Credit

To the Committee:

As a Family Physician in rural central Colorado, I am happy to provide written testimony in favor of continuing the Rural Preceptor Tax Credit, House Bill 1005 on behalf of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians.

I have practiced in Salida for 25 years and have endeavored to maintain robust mentorship for medical students similar to that which I received while in training. Exposure to excellent physician mentors solidified my commitment to rural primary care and I have seen similar results with students I have taught.

Of note, in our private practice we just hired a new residency graduate who trained with us as a student. We have another former student currently completing a fellowship in another state who wants to return here, or another rural site in Colorado. Students routinely cite their experience here as transformative since they get to participate first hand in full-spectrum practice and simultaneously enjoy the best of Colorado outdoors.

Rural physicians are expected to wear many volunteer hats and teaching students, although enriching, is yet another such volunteer responsibility. That said, it is clear from my experience that the preceptor program is effective at getting students interested in rural and underserved areas. Therefore, the tax credit seems to serve a dual purpose of providing some recompense to busy health care providers while increasing the future workforce pool in our rural communities.

I strongly encourage the Committee to continue and expand the Rural Preceptor Tax Credit.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Yours,

Matthew Burkley, MD  
*Family Physician in Salida*  
*Member of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians*

February 16, 2022

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

On behalf of the Colorado Pharmacists Society, we strongly encourage you to vote yes on HB22-1005 in support of our rural pharmacy preceptors.

Pharmacists in rural communities often provide primary care to patients or provide triage to higher levels of care, such as a physician or urgent care center if needed. For example, with the increase in scope granted to pharmacists as part of the 2021 pharmacy sunset act, pharmacists may provide point-of-care tests for flu or strep and provide evidence-based treatment if the patient tests positive. Similarly, if a patient tests negative, they may be offered symptomatic care and avoid an unnecessary trip to an urgent care clinic that are often extremely busy and limited in capacity.

The University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has a long-standing program referred to as the "Colorado Commitment" which requires fourth year pharmacy students to spend at least one clinical rotation in rural areas of the state. This program helps support our rural pharmacists practicing in community and hospital settings, and also creates awareness of rural practice for students soon to enter practice. The school has also been able to partner with the National Western Stock Show Foundation with a select number of students who are committed to rural practice.

This preceptor tax credit will support our valuable preceptors who do so much for our students and our communities. This bills also aligns with loan forgiveness programs for pharmacists in rural practice.

We very much appreciate your support of the bill. We also thank the bill sponsors for including pharmacists in this important legislation.