



The Denver
Foundation

March 29, 2022

HB22-1304: State Grants Investments Local Affordable Housing

Dear Members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee,

On behalf of The Denver Foundation, we are writing to respectfully request a yes vote on HB22-1304. The Denver Foundation is a community foundation with a long-standing history of funding nonprofit organizations working to increase the affordable housing supply and establish systemic support to address barriers to housing security. We believe housing programs designed to address affordable housing should be well-funded, address the systemic barriers to a lack of affordable housing, and respond to the history of exclusionary housing policies that negatively impact communities of color.

As many have mentioned, the American Rescue Plan Act is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest resources to support housing for communities most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout this pandemic, our organization has seen the toll of housing insecurity and invested in organizations providing rental assistance and legal support for those at risk of losing their housing because of the toll of the pandemic. We have understood the disproportionate impact of this pandemic on individuals of color, with disabilities, and those with low incomes. We also watched the work of the Affordable Housing Task Force leading to this moment and recognize that this work is not easy but so critical, and we applaud all who were involved in crafting this legislation to create the transformational affordable housing and infrastructure and strong community grant programs.

We support HB22-1304, as both grant programs are uniquely designed to develop or preserve existing affordable housing and sustainable land use during affordable housing development. We also fully understand the iterative nature of the legislative process. As discussions continue provisions in this bill, we want to reiterate the importance of ensuring that the funds are serving those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including individuals of color, with disabilities, and those with low incomes and encourage provisions that will build and preserve rental homes for such communities.

We welcome opportunities to collaborate with this committee and other stakeholders on future policy solutions to address the systemic barriers to affordable housing in Colorado. Thank you to all the stakeholders involved in the development of HB12-1304. The Denver Foundation applauds the efforts of bill sponsors and stakeholders and respectfully requests a yes vote.

Sincerely,

Javier Alberto Soto
President and CEO

Dace West
Chief Impact Officer

Naomi Amaha
Director of Policy and Gov. Affairs

HB22-1304 State Grants Investments Local Affordable Housing

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

House Transportation & Local Government 1:30 pm | Room LSB-A (2)

Written Testimony: Support

Thank you, Mister Chair and members of the committee, my name is Matt Gorenc, and I'm government affairs manager at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. I submit this written testimony on behalf of the Chamber and our statewide affiliate organization the Colorado Competitive Council (C3) in support of House Bill 1304.

Housing prices are skyrocketing, and housing inventory is scarce. Affordable housing is needed in our state now more than ever, and we applaud the state legislature for making efforts to increase housing supply and assist Colorado's workforce in this matter.

Providing grants to non-profits and local governments is an effective way to increase housing inventory. We support efforts that reward developers for producing severely needed housing products, so our competitive workforce has an affordable place to call home. This is an appropriate use of ARPA funds because it will increase resources for local governments to complete infill projects, which gets the wheels turning on developing affordable housing. This bill also benefits non-profits that are hard at work supplying affordable housing options for our state, helping our economy remain healthy and our workforce competitive.

Colorado employers cite a lack of talented workforce as a threat to our prosperity and strong economy. The state needs to do all it can to retain our highly-skilled workforce, and creating incentives to develop affordable housing is an effective way of doing just that.

We urge the members of this committee to vote yes on this bill.

March 29, 2022

Transportation and Local Government Committee

Colorado General Assembly

RE: HB22-1034 – State Grants Investments Local Affordable Housing

Dear Members of the Transportation and Local Government Committee:

My name is Trish Warner and I am a member of the League of Women Voters of Colorado's Legislative Action Committee. **I am writing in support of HB22-1034, on behalf of the League's Legislative Action Committee.**

The League is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Our membership spans the state of Colorado with 19 local leagues operating in several regions of the state. The League supports policies to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family and measures that strengthen equal access to housing.

This bill creates two grant programs to support affordable housing. As introduced "affordable housing" is defined as anything up to 140% area median income (AMI) for rental and for sale housing. This criteria does not reflect their intended use to impact those hardest hit by the pandemic.

As these grant programs are being developed it will be critical to build and preserve rental homes for those living on low and fixed incomes, BIPOC households, people living with disabilities and seniors. These grant monies will also be critical in bolstering nonprofit organizations ability to continue providing rental assistance.

We urge the committee members to vote YES on HB22-1034. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Trish Warner, Volunteer Lobbyist

League of Women Voters of Colorado Legislative Action Committee

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