

**Senate Education**  
**03/11/2021 1:30 PM**  
**Testimony - SB21-106 Concerning Successful High School Transitions**

Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Representation	Text of Testimony
	Kelly	Pointer	Against	Self	<p data-bbox="739 431 1980 496">Senators,</p> <p data-bbox="739 431 1980 496">Good afternoon. The past year has brought forward many challenges for Colorado's students, teachers, school administrators, and parents. I am a parent of two high school children.</p> <p data-bbox="739 529 1980 626">I am against SB 21-106 (Successful High School Transitions). This bill creates a voucher program within the Colorado Department of Education and polling shows that vouchers are not supported by our communities.</p> <p data-bbox="739 659 1980 821">Under this bill, a voucher is disbursed to a student graduating, prior to enrolling in his/her fourth year of high school. The voucher amount is equal to the greater of 75% of the average state share amount of the statewide average per-pupil funding for public elementary and secondary schools or \$3,500. These are dollars that would be taken away from our already underfunded public schools. I cannot support this.</p> <p data-bbox="739 854 1980 984">The students targeted in this bill would qualify for a Pell Grant, which could fund their post- secondary education. Providing students with state monies would not only reduce funding to our public schools, but it would also impact a student's ability to receive a full Pell Grant moving forward. Would students be aware of this?</p>
	Susan	Zloth	Against	Self	<p data-bbox="739 1032 1980 1065"><del>Please consider opposing SB 21-106. Thank you for your time and consideration.</del></p> <p data-bbox="739 1065 1980 1164">It is imperative that the State retain all of the funding that it can for public K-12 education. This bill sets up a voucher program within the CDE, taking public funds and using them towards non-public non-K-12 education. Providing the students with state monies would not only reduce funding to public schools, but it would also impact students' ability to receive a full Pell Grant moving forward.</p>

Witness Signup List

Mr. Richard Johnson Against Self

SB 21-106 - Successful High School Transition - The bill creates a voucher program within the Colorado Department of Education with per pupil funding. The voucher is disbursed to a student graduating prior to enrolling in the fourth year of high school and is equal to the greater of 75% of the average state share amount of the statewide average per-pupil funding for public elementary and secondary schools or \$3,500.

Providing students with taxpayer monies would not only reduce needed funding to public schools, it very likely would negatively impact students' ability to receive a full Pell Grant as they entered college. □

I oppose SB21-106.

Mrs. Sarah Wu Against Self

Hello Chairperson and Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony today regarding SB 21-106. This bill is very concerning to me as a parent because it redirects public education funds away from public schools. Although well intentioned, it would be too easy to manipulate this program into the Voucher system that we have fought so hard to prevent in our state. Voucher programs are particularly concerning to me because of their attempt to re-direct public funds to private institutions, religious organizations, and even directly to unscrupulous people. As a former Oklahoman, I have seen first-hand the tricks that people will use to pull money out of public education for their own gain- and the damage that the funding cuts cause to all students.

I am also concerned that this program could unknowingly cause students to spend limited grant and scholarship money before entering college, which would leave them without sufficient funds to attend college later.

Please ensure that this bill is appropriately amended to address these items.

Regards,

Benjamin Waters For

Stand for Children  
Madam Chairwoman Zenzinger, Senators Coleman and Priola, esteemed members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Benjamin Waters and I'm here today representing Colorado Stand for Children, a non-profit advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students receive a high quality, relevant education, especially those whose boundless potential is overlooked and under-tapped because of their skin color, zip code, first language, or disability. □

Debbie Nelson Amend

We strongly support SB-106 as a means of supporting the aforementioned vulnerable populations and Colorado Association for Career and Technical Education (CACTE)



The Colorado Association for Career and Technical Education (CACTE) SB21-106 – Concerning  
Successful High School Transition

March 9, 2021

Honorable Legislators,

The Colorado Association for Career and Technical Education would like to express position to amend SB21-106 Concerning Successful High School Transition. CACTE is the state professional association for Career and Technical Education. Since 1917, CACTE has been the largest state organization supporting Colorado Career and Technical Educators in their efforts to prepare students for career and life success. We are composed of secondary and post-secondary teachers, administrators, teacher educators, career counselors, and business partners.

Our Concerns with SB21-106 are due to the following:

- If students graduate in three years, it will hurt a district's graduation rate and thus affect a districts' funding.
- This proposed legislation does not provide any new opportunities and seems to fund private enterprises and/or for-profit businesses.
- Many of the options outlined in this proposed legislation already exist in school districts for all students (including low-income students) The following programs currently exist:
  - through **Career and Technical Education (CTE), Work Based Learning (WBL)** is required for schools to receive federal Perkins V funding for any approved CTE program. This would include internships, apprenticeships, and other work-based learning opportunities.
  - through **Concurrent Enrollment**, students can attend college classes while still in high school.
  - through the **ASCENT** Program (Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment), students who have completed at least 12 credit hours of postsecondary courses prior to completion of their 12th grade year may be eligible for the ASCENT Program. They remain students in their Local Education Provider (LEP) for one year following their 12th grade year, and the LEP receives ASCENT specific per-pupil state funding that it uses to pay their college tuition at the resident community college rate. Students receive their high-school diplomas at the end of their ASCENT year.
  - through the **Colorado Career Development Incentive Program (CDIP)**, in CO House Bill 18-1266, financial **incentives are provided** by the state for school districts and charter schools to encourage high school students, grades 9-12, to complete qualified industry credential **programs**, internships, residencies, construction pre-

Debbie Nelson, MA

Executive Director





apprenticeship or construction apprenticeship **programs** or qualified Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

- through the **Colorado Department of Education Graduation Menu**, students can choose a **capstone project** for graduation, which could include everything outlined in this proposal (apprenticeships, internships, continuing education, etc.)

Our recommendation for possible **solutions** to improve this bill:

- High schools are currently addressing all the issues discussed in this proposed legislation – instead of starting new programs we should increase funding to high schools to expand their current programming. (For example, WBL for all students, capstone graduation projects encouraged and expanded and initiate state funding to support concurrent enrollment.)

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