

# HB 1173: Prohibiting Legacy Preferences in Higher Education

Representatives Kyle Mullica and Matt Gray and Senators Brittany Pettersen and Jeff Bridges

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## ENSURING EQUITY IN THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

**HB 1173 would eliminate giving preferential treatment to students of alumni across Colorado higher education institutions, often called**

**"legacy preference."**

Currently, most 4-year public institutions in Colorado ask applicants what family connections the prospective student has with the institution, including the names of the family members and how they are connected to the institution. Additionally, some institutions give "fee waivers" for students who have family connections. This information is then used as a factor in admissions. This practice is discriminatory in nature and is an example of systemic inequity that should have no place in Colorado. Giving preferential treatment to students who have family connections to an institution hurts students who are first-generation, immigrants, and under-represented minorities who might not have had the ability to have family connections to higher education institutions. Additionally, it provides no utility as to whether a student will be successful.

