



March 2025

To: House Education Committee

Re: AAUW Supports HB1278-- Education Accountability System

Dear Committee Members,

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. More than 700 community leaders are AAUW members in local branches around the state.

AAUW has led the fight for educational equity and economic empowerment for women, and we have made progress over the years. Yet women continue to face barriers to reach our full potential. One of these barriers is the over-emphasis on standardized testing and the resulting pressure on teachers and students over the past 25 years. House Bill 1278 will require the Department of Education to divide state assessments into shorter, age-appropriate sections, develop assessments in multiple languages, and create a statewide education accountability dashboard. The bill changes how postsecondary and workforce readiness will be measured, introducing two new sub-indicators: college and career readiness before graduation and postsecondary progression. HB1278 also establishes new processes for supporting and intervening in school districts and public schools that are struggling. These changes are long overdue.

AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB1278 and urges your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

**Su Ryden**

**AAUW Colorado Public Policy Co-Director**

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*American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*