

Senate Finance

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SB25-167 Invest State Funds to Benefit Communities

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Alex Nelson For Colorado Education Association	<p>Members of the Senate Finance Committee,</p> <p>On behalf of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association and the Colorado Education Association, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 25-167. As an organization dedicated to supporting educators and ensuring strong, stable communities, we recognize the urgent need for policies that make housing more accessible and affordable for teachers and school staff across our state.</p> <p>Two years ago I sat before this legislature for a different housing bill and told the stories of 2 educators in Colorado. Aimee Soukup in Denver and Taylor Davis in JeffCo schools—excellent educators feeling like they'd have to make the choice of either leaving the profession or leaving the state because of the rising cost of housing in Colorado. Aimee Soukup, my former colleague, left the profession last year and Taylor Davis, a fellow union member, left the state to teach elsewhere.</p> <p>I send this message to legislators again, Colorado is losing its educators. In many cases, given low wages and the unattainable cost of a home, we aren't even giving new teachers the chance to get started.</p> <p>This bill provides our state with the opportunity to provide more homes for educators to prevent this from happening year after year.</p> <p>If we are to educate, lead and protect the children of this state, the next generation of Coloradans, then Colorado must ensure its teachers have a home in the communities they serve.</p> <p>Sincerely, Alex Nelson</p>