

Senate Education

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HB25-1320 School Finance Act

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Adam Hartman For Canon City Schools</p>	<p>Chair and members of the committee,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of HB-1320. My name is Adam Hartman, and I serve as Superintendent of Cañon City Schools in Fremont County. Today, I urge you to recognize this bill not just as a funding mechanism but as a critical step toward honoring both the promise of 1448 and the promise of a brighter tomorrow, especially for districts like ours that are working to serve students well in the face of rising costs and growing uncertainty.</p> <p>For context, in Cañon City Schools, our work is grounded in our Core Beliefs, and our third Core Belief reads "WE ARE FUTURE-FOCUSED". This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Building modern learning spaces to replace outdated infrastructure.-Expanding workforce housing to recruit and retain quality educators.-Increasing student access to industry certification, internships, and Career & College Pathways for every student, rural zip code notwithstanding. <p>To deliver on these goals, however, and to fulfill the promise Colorado made through the School Finance Act, we need a policy that recognizes rural realities and rewards steady planning. HB25-1320 does that.</p> <p>Like many districts across Colorado, Canon City Schools is experiencing rising fixed costs that put real pressure on our ability to maintain student-facing supports. Our health benefits program will see a 16.5% year-over-year increase—a cost we'll absorb in large part to remain competitive and take care of our employees...to the tune of \$626K. Additionally, we're bracing for an \$80,000 annual increase to our electrical bill—the result of a new rate structure we can't avoid. As you know, federal education dollars remain an uncertain variable, leaving us in a precarious position when it comes to long-term planning and sustainability.</p> <p>1320's approach of 4-year enrollment averaging paired with 15% implementation of the School Finance Act will provide stabilizing support for school districts...especially those with fluctuating or declining enrollment. We've seen the numbers. For Cañon City Schools, this bill represents a revenue increase of \$556,322 in the 2025-2026 school year that would merely help us keep pace with the increased expenses</p>

	<p>mentioned above...allowing us to better maintain our classrooms, programs, and people.</p> <p>Simply put, this proposal would better allow us to manage increasing costs without cutting core services and limiting long-term student opportunities. To deliver on the local goals I stated above—and to fulfill the promise Colorado made through the School Finance Act—we need policy that recognizes rural realities and rewards steady planning. HB25-1320 does that.</p> <p>I respectfully ask for your support of this important legislation. Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to Colorado’s future.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Adam Hartman Superintendent of Schools Canon City Schools</p>
<p>Kylee Alvarez Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill would compromise the ability of parents to make decisions regarding their children and infringe on the rights .</p> <p>This bill is completely unconstitutional!</p> <p>It goes against our rights as American citizens.</p> <p>Children belong to their parents not the government!</p> <p>This is an attack on our freedom, our rights, our families, and our children!</p>