

HB24-1044 Additional PERA Service Retirees for Schools

Hello, Mister Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Carol Pace. I am a volunteer with AARP Colorado. AARP has over 670,000 members in Colorado and is focused on Coloradans age 50 and above, as well as their families. AARP supports HB24-1044 which would allow a PERA retiree who has the unique experience, skill and qualifications to benefit a school employer where there are staff shortages and need. PERA has retirees who are willing and able to fulfill these needs.

AARP, in its advocacy for older adults, supports older Coloradans securing employment, utilizing their highest skill levels, education and experience, and having greater financial security in their retirement. AARP describes in its policy book, in the attached references, that it is opposed to older adults facing deteriorating job opportunities and job quality, stagnating wage levels and contingent employment work.

AARP supports removing barriers and expanding employment opportunities for all who are willing and able to work, seeking to minimize older adult unemployment or underemployment.

PERA, in its own right, was formed to provide public employees an opportunity to have a secure retirement. PERA retirees remain an underutilized resource and could be a significant asset in the critical educator shortage areas of our state. PERA retirees are shown by county, in the attached references.

This bill serves the twin purposes of matching skilled experienced PERA retirees with crucial educational needs within Colorado.

AARP urges the support by this committee for HB24-1044.

Sincerely,
Carol Pace, AARP Volunteer Advocate

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1. AARP Policy Book 2023-2024: <https://policybook.aarp.org/>;Employment Policy <https://policybook.aarp.org/policy-book/employment/aarp-employment-principles>
 2. 2022 Popular Comprehensive Financial Report, June 2023 <https://www.copera.org/files/efb61933b/5-21+PAFR+2023.pdf> User-friendly annual report, map shows PERA retirees by county.