

**House Finance**

**04/01/2024 01:30 PM**

**HB24-1312 State Income Tax Credit for Careworkers**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Alma Enriquez Amend themselves	<p>Thank you, finance committee, for allowing me to present my testimony. My name is Alma Enriquez. I've been an FFN childcare provider for 24 years. I am a mom of 5, and live in Greeley, in Weld County.</p> <p>Today I'm asking you to vote in favor of bill HB24-1312.</p> <p>Taking care of children is beautiful, I think it's one of the most important jobs. You educate them, teach them letters, and how to use the bathroom. You are laying a foundation for the education of the people of the future and providing them a safe place.</p> <p>I started babysitting because of my need to stay home with my daughter who has a disability. Taking care of other people's children allows me to care for my daughter, take her to her therapies. That's how fate led me to this work, and as soon as I started, I knew this was what I had to do.</p> <p>People often tell me that I have a talent for children because when they leave them with me, even new babies, they don't cry. They always stay with me happily; they feel good and follow me a lot. That's how I know I'm good at caring for them and calming them down.</p> <p>Thanks to our care, parents can work and provide for their families. But truthfully, this job pays poorly. Sometimes we babysit for up to 14 hours in a day, and even then, you can get paid as little as \$15 for the whole day.</p> <p>There are things in life that have opened my eyes to the needs childcare providers have. 3 years ago, I had cancer, and yet continued caring for children and taking them to school. A week after my surgery, I lost my health insurance since I couldn't prove my income. I had to beg the person at the hospital to accept a letter written by the mother of a little girl I was caring for.</p> <p>That makes me think about how much FFN providers need to be valued and supported, it's not easy to prove income, and even more so if there are language barriers.</p>

	<p>This tax credit would be very helpful to buy materials for their education and to catch up on outstanding bills. Although it sounds harsh, when the electricity bill arrives, we only pay half of it since we always need to have a basket with fruit for the children.</p> <p>This bill, for me, is a sigh of relief. I feel like FFN providers have been very hidden and it's so important to see that we're being considered. We are hundreds of nannies who need some support, as we are an important part of society.</p> <p>Thank you, committee for your time and thank you again to the sponsors of this bill. I urge you to vote "yes" on bill HB24-1312</p>
<p>Martha Espinoza For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you, Finance Committee, for this opportunity. My name is Martha Espinoza, I am an FFN child care provider, and mother to a daughter. I live in the town of Greeley, Weld County. I'm also a community leader in Grupos de Lucha and VOZ, communities that are part of the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition.</p> <p>I'm here today in support of house bill 24-1312, and ask you to vote in favor of it.</p> <p>Our work is essential, we're helping raise the new citizens of this country. It's very important. We are a second home for those children. The babies I take care of now, have been under my care since they were newborns. I know one day they will grow up and it will be nice knowing that I was part of their upbringing and their lives.</p> <p>The pay we get, it's not always fair, and we don't have a fixed salary. As a caregiver, you wait for the children and count on that payment, but sometimes parents also lack job stability. If the parents don't work, they don't bring the children and we lose that pay. If the child or mom gets sick, you no longer earn anything that day. You can't afford your expenses waiting for the kids to be brought to you or not.</p> <p>Previously, I've left this profession to work in a restaurant. I got paid little, but the income was steady. Due to the pandemic, I stopped working at the restaurant, and people started contacting me to take care of children again. That was good, because it allowed me to continue my childcare studies, which helped parents value my work even more.</p>

	<p>We know that families are also in need, and that's why we don't charge them more. This credit can also help those families who do not have resources or a fixed income. Personally, this credit can help me pay taxes and maintain a good tax history.</p> <p>FFN providers are flexible caregivers, we take care of children at any time and under any situation. This law would give us stability and confidence, which will be reflected on the children. They'll see us calmer, not stressed, feeling like we're going to be okay.</p> <p>If a caregiver is okay, the kids are okay too. If we can continue to care for them, they will also have the confidence that everything will be okay. It affects children when they have to change providers.</p> <p>It should be a right for all babies and children, to have care and to be well cared for. This bill is a great support for those of us who are doing that work.</p> <p>Thank you to the sponsors of this bill, and thank you again committee, I ask you to vote "yes" on bill HB24-1312.</p>
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April 2024

To: House Finance Committee

Re: AAUW Support for HB1312- State Income Tax Credit for Care Workers

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 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 lack of care for our youngest and our oldest, care that often falls to the women in the family. Taking care of children and/or aging parents often means thousands of women are not able to work. In turn, this impacts our families, our communities and our state's economy.

Colorado is in crisis due to a lack of child care workers, home health-care workers, personal care aides, certified nursing assistants, and other care workers. HB1312 will provide an income tax credit of \$1500 for individual care workers with an annual gross income up to \$75,000 as a single filer or \$150,000 as a joint filer. AAUW believes this will provide an important incentive for more people to join or remain in the care workforce. With more childcare options available, women will have more options to achieve economic equity and security for their families. HB1312 represents an investment that will more than pay for itself.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado urges your YES vote in committee and as the bill moves through the legislative process.

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.*