



COLORADO CROSS-DISABILITY COALITION

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition's strong support for HB24-1268. The current rebate grant program has not been particularly well utilized by people with disabilities. We believe that there are several reasons for this, but among them are the relatively complicated application and the fact that many people with disabilities are often already filling out MANY different application assistance forms (e.g. Medicaid, SNAP, SSDI, etc.). The energy assistance rebate grant is just one more in a long line.

Converting the current rebate grant into a tax credit will streamline the application process. CCDC actively supports and encourages our members to file taxes, even when they don't have a tax obligation. As a community, we have long fought for the opportunity to be employed and filing taxes is an important part of having gainful employment. When our members file taxes, they often realize that they are eligible for tax credits and rebates that they didn't realize they were eligible for.

For all of these reasons, we are excited to see HB24-1268 come forward and are fully in support of its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hillary Jorgensen', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Hillary Jorgensen
Co-Executive Director
Colorado Cross Disability Coalition



5/2/24

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your diligent work this legislative session. AARP Colorado is a statewide organization with a membership of over 670,000 Coloradans. The financial security of aging Coloradans is of utmost importance to our work. For that reason, AARP CO supports HB 1268: Financial Assistance for Certain Low-Income Individuals.

The [PTC rebate](#) is a means-tested program that is designed to assist Coloradans who are aging and/or have a disability, who are also struggling with economic challenges. With the current inflationary pressures facing many low-income individuals, this program is vital to assist those struggling to pay their property taxes, rent, and/or meet their heating needs due to rising utility costs. AARP Colorado has studied statewide eviction data. In 2023, approximately 30% of Colorado evictions were people in the 55+ age range¹. As housing prices surge, AARP Colorado is concerned about the vulnerability of older Coloradans living on fixed incomes that are insufficient to meet basic needs. For that reason, means-tested, targeted programs like the PTC rebate are critical.

In the program's current form, AARP Colorado is concerned that it is underutilized and not accessible to those who need it the most. Transferring this program to a tax credit for eligible individuals with a disability is the first step to improving utilization and accessibility.

AARP Colorado supports this legislation and plans to be a stakeholder in future dialogue regarding full program transition to a tax credit for all individuals who are eligible. House Bill 1268 is a modest, but important step, to help some low-income individuals with their housing needs. It would replace an existing grant program and provide a more effective way to assist recipients, thus ensuring better participation by people who need it the most. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Karen Moldovan
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¹ Statista/AARP analysis of census data available by United States Census Bureau (USCB)