



February 2024

To: House Civic, State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee
Re: HB24-1097-Military Family Occupational Credentialing

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.

Today, Colorado faces a severe shortage of workers in many occupations and professions requiring credentialing. At the same time, Colorado is home to large numbers of military families due to the number of military installations here.

HB 1097 will make some significant changes to our current law regarding military spouse credentialing. It will allow Gold Star military spouses and military dependents, in addition to military spouses, to obtain a renewable six-year credential while in Colorado. It will also waive the application and renewal fee for Colorado credentials issued to them; and expand eligibility for the program to spouses and dependents of Armed Forces Reserve, Ready Reserve, and National Guard members in Colorado.

Many military and Gold Star spouses are women who currently face licensing barriers to continue in their careers. AAUW believes the changes proposed in House Bill 1097 will help not only these women, but also the Colorado economy by adding credentialed workers to fill jobs in areas where they are most needed.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports House Bill 1097 and requests your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming a law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

Su Ryden
AAUW of Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

16699 E. Kentucky Ave. • Aurora, CO 80017
303.898.5797
suryden25@gmail.com

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.