



April 2024

To: House Education Committee

Re: AAUW Support for HB 1340- Incentives for Post-Secondary Education

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, girls and young women continue to face barriers to reach their full potential. AAUW advocates for everyone who wishes to pursue a 4-year college degree, as well as those who want to pursue careers in fields requiring less than a 4-year degree. House Bill 1340 will provide incentives for both pathways, ranging from \$250 to \$3,000 in tax credits to graduates of programs ranging from certifications to bachelor's degrees in career fields most in need of skilled workers in today's economy: STEM, education and health care. This bill represents an investment that will pay big rewards, not only for our young women, but for the state as a whole.

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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303.898.5797

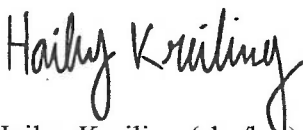
suryden25@gmail.com

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.

I have attended Regis University in Northwest Denver since August of 2021, commuting daily from my home in Littleton. I am currently pursuing a double major in Politics and Peace & Justice Studies, which has afforded me various opportunities to get involved in my campus community, and the broader Denver community. I this years Regis University Student Government Associations (RUSGA) Chief of Staff, and I have been elected Student Body President for the 2024-2025 academic year. I take advantage of my federal work study within the Peace & Justice Studies Department as the Lead Teaching Assistant—managing other TA’s and working with professors to create learning opportunities that students can take outside of the classroom. I’m also working outside of school, with a flexible job and boss who understand that being a student is one of the most important things to me.

As a Colorado Native, staying in my home state for college meant more to me than I initially realized. It means being able to make difference in my campus community, but also being able to stay close to family, and connections that I have made in Denver through my whole life. I also now understand that I would not have been able to attend college without working multiple jobs at once, continually working to keep myself in school, and being able to make ends meet. Having a tax credit available for students like myself, or even parents who may be contributing to their child’s college education can provide openings for students to have some wiggle room, and could even mean the difference between being able to afford basic necessities and a tuition payment, or being forced to drop out due to late tuition payments. The importance that follows being able to have an affordable college degree cannot be understated. To be successful and have a shot at making it economically, having a bachelors or trade certification is a huge leg up.

It can make the difference between financial freedom and working paycheck-to-paycheck. This is why I support HB24-1340 and urge you to pass the bill through this committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hailey Kreiling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hailey Kreiling (she/her).