



April 2024

To: Senate Transportation and Energy Committee

Re: AAUW Support for HB1161- Concerning Basic Access For Individuals With Disabilities Using Motor Vehicles

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 Colorado.

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. For women with disabilities, these barriers become even more difficult to overcome, needlessly preventing them from reaching their full potential. When women are held back, it impacts our families, our communities and our state's economy.

AAUW is concerned that the requirements in House Bill 1161 are not already in law. It is well past time that we include accessibility requirements in everything we do. Requiring car sharing programs and electric vehicle charging stations to meet the standards outlined in the bill is a modest requirement indeed. It is also sad to note that we continue to have issues with people blocking reasonable access to reserved parking. We hope this bill will help address that problem. The fiscal impact of HB 1161 is minimal, but the economic impact for our disability community would be substantial.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado urges your AYE vote on HB-1161 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.

KNOWN

VALUED

INCLUDED

February 15, 2024

Re: Support for HB24-1161, Motor Vehicle Access Individuals with Disabilities

To Whom It May Concern:

The Independence Center is the local home of civil rights for people with disabilities. Working with individuals, their families, and the community, we create independence so that all may thrive.

Our organization provides information, resources, and support to help people with disabilities live, learn, work, play, and participate in civic life as equals.

For this reason, we would like to make clear our statement of support for HB24-1161, Motor Vehicle Access Individuals with Disabilities. We appreciate efforts to make the operation of and accessibility of motor vehicles accessible to individuals with disabilities. And applaud efforts to ensure that the disability parking spaces that are currently in operation are available to those who truly need them.

We look forward to the passage of a bill that contributes to the quality of lives for everyone, including Coloradans with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important legislation.

Respectfully,



Indy Frazee, CEO



February 2, 2024

The Association of Colorado Centers for Independent Living (ACCIL) would like to make clear our statement of support of **HB24-1161**. We support all improvements of accessibility for people with disabilities to engage in our democratic processes and feel this bill is a great step forward in those improvements of access.

As the nine (9) Colorado Centers for Independent Living Directors wish to collectively emphasize the importance of allowing consumers of our support services the right to lead, live and choose independently.

We look forward to the passing of a bill that contributes to the quality of lives for everyone, including Coloradans with disabilities. Thank you for your service to our great state.

Considerately,

The Association of Colorado Centers for Independent Living

Rochelle Mitchell, PMP, CEO, Connections for Independent Living

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Ian Engle, Executive Director, NW CO Center for Independence

Bill Edwards & Susan Lindeman co-Executive Director's, Center Towards Self-Reliance

Denise Meyer- Mullhaupt, Executive Director, Disabled Resource Services

Kelsey Bell, Executive Director, Southwest Center for Independence