



March 2026

To: House Finance Committee
Re: AAUW SUPPORTS HB1223—Modifying Certain Tax Expenditures

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. Due to recent changes in the federal tax code, those barriers have become higher, not lower, especially for women and their families. AAUW applauds the sponsors of HB1223 for finding fair and balanced ways to help Colorado's families retain important tax credits that would be lost otherwise.

AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB1223 and urges your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Hon. Su Ryden
AAUW Colorado Advocacy Director

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Aurora, CO 80017
303.898.5797
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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.

Dear Chair Woodrow, Vice Chair Titone, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rorey King, and I am writing on behalf of United Way of Larimer County in strong support of HB26-1221, HB26-1222, and HB26-1223. These bills decouple Colorado's tax code from certain federal provisions created through H.R. 1, remove the downloadable software tax exemption, and establish the Family Affordability Credit. Together, they help ensure that low-income families with children continue to receive the critical financial support provided through the Family Affordability Tax Credit, especially during times of state budget deficits and economic uncertainty, and prevent corporate tax benefits from coming at the expense of families.

At United Way of Larimer County, we believe that every young person should have what they need to thrive. From advancing family financial stability and expanding access to quality child care to strengthening the foundations for high school graduation, our work focuses on removing the barriers that keep families living paycheck to paycheck and prevent young people from reaching their full potential. Providing and advocating for reliable, flexible financial support for low-income families with children is central to that mission.

One way we do this is through our WomenGive program, which covers the cost of child care for single mothers pursuing higher education and provides monthly cash assistance to program graduates during the year following graduation. Every WomenGive recipient qualifies for the Family Affordability Tax Credit. When asked about the credit, one graduate shared that when she filed her taxes in April 2025, she received more than \$7,000 back from the state. Without that support, she wasn't sure how she would have made ends meet. The credit helped cover rent and basic expenses, allowing her to stay enrolled in school and sustain herself and her three children through her final semester and the summer that followed.

This recipient's experience aligns with our data; according to the Colorado ALICE report, nearly 30% of single-woman-led households with children under 18 live in poverty, and an additional 25% live above the federal poverty level but still struggle to afford basic necessities. Tax credits like the Family Affordability Tax Credit helped reduce child poverty in Colorado by 40.5%. However, due to the state's current budget deficit, this support is at risk.

United Way of Larimer County supports the solution presented through the 2026 Tax Package, which ensures that federal tax benefits for corporations do not result in the loss of essential support for our WomenGive recipients and for low-income families with children across Colorado. With the cost of living continuing to rise in Colorado and public assistance benefits being stripped away at the federal level, it is critical that we protect the strides that we have made as a state, like the Family Affordability Tax Credit, to make life more affordable and accessible for working families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rorey King

Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy
United Way of Larimer County

Submitted March 9, 2026.

Testimony on Bill # **HB26-1223** Downloadable Software Exemption

on March 9, 2026, at 1:30 PM House Finance

From: Kameo Thomas

Submitted on: March 9, 2026.

Testimony in support of **HB26-1223** Downloadable Software Exemption

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kameo Thomas, and I am a parent of two, a working parent, and a Parent Ambassador at Clayton Early Learning. I am here today to speak in support of House Bill 26-1223 and the importance of protecting the Family Affordability Tax Credit for families like mine.

House Bill 26-1223 helps ensure that Colorado's tax code works fairly for families by addressing outdated tax exemptions and helping the state maintain the revenue needed to continue investing in programs that support working families, including refundable tax credits like the Family Affordability Tax Credit.

Like many families across Colorado, I work hard to provide for my children and create a stable home for them. Even with full-time employment, the rising costs of childcare, housing, transportation, and everyday household bills can make it difficult to stay ahead. Many working parents are doing everything they can to support their families, yet the cost of living continues to make it challenging to cover both basic needs and opportunities for our children.

The Family Affordability Tax Credit has been a lifeline for families like mine. It has helped us cover important expenses and has given us the ability to invest in opportunities that support our children's learning and development. As a parent who already contributes to the tax system, having the flexibility to apply a portion of those funds toward my children's development allows me to provide additional educational support, enrichment programs, and activities that strengthen their future.

Programs such as sports, leadership development, tutoring, and skill-building activities play a critical role in shaping young people beyond the classroom. Participation in extracurricular activities helps children develop important life skills, including teamwork, discipline, conflict resolution, leadership, and decision-making. These opportunities also

provide positive environments that keep youth engaged, supported, and focused on productive goals.

Access to these programs allows children to discover their talents, explore different interests, and build confidence in who they are beyond the limitations of their immediate environment. When young people are given opportunities to grow through education, sports, mentorship, and enrichment activities, they are better prepared to become responsible adults, strong role models, and productive citizens in our state and nation.

For families like mine, this credit is about more than finances; it's about stability and opportunity. It means having the ability to support our children in ways that help them succeed in school and in life.

If this credit were to go away, many families would immediately feel the impact. It would mean making difficult choices between basic necessities and the kinds of enrichment and learning opportunities that help our children thrive.

Refundable tax credits like the Family Affordability Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit recognize the hard work of parents and the importance of investing in children. When we support families, we strengthen our communities, our schools, and the future workforce of Colorado.

I respectfully encourage the committee to support HB26-1223 and continue prioritizing policies that protect important credits like the Family Affordability Tax Credit for working families.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for recognizing the real families behind these policies.

Sincerely,

Kameo Thomas