

House Business Affairs & Labor

02/02/2023 01:30 PM

HB23-1074 Study Workforce Transitions To Other Industries

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Ginger Barrett  Amend  themselves	<p>Hello! I am overwhelmingly in support of HB23-1074 Study Workforce Transitions To Other Industries because I believe it is incredibly important for our government to be proactive in helping workers to transition into new industries for the sake of our economy and communities.</p> <p>I support HB23-1074's passage, but with some suggested amendments that were brought to my attention that I can see being very important:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. I'd like to see financial support included, for communities heavily impacted by our society's shift in energy consumption away from oil and gas.</li><li>2. An update to legislators should absolutely be mandatory, so that it can be used as a tool for future legislative decisions.</li><li>3. Renewable energy should be recognized as an emerging industry and studied for its developing workforce needs as part of this bill.</li><li>4. The study should include analysis of funding needs and sources.</li></ol>
Susan Lucken  For  themselves	<p>As someone who has worked in the workforce supports field, and whose husband has worked in the oil/gas industry, I'm very much in favor of HB-1074 to figure out the best way to help workers transition away from jobs in the oil/gas industry.</p> <p>Most people we know in that industry are 'hanging on' for the economic benefits, but would prefer to do something else -- if only they had the time and resources to figure that out and to train for it. The obvious transition would be to jobs in renewable energy, and so the Energy Office should study potential workforce needs of the renewable energy industry, and how those skills used in oil/gas might translate, as well as provide a pathway for that transition. We need masses of new electricians if we're going to (and should) electrify everything!</p> <p>The bill should also have a new section regarding funding for workforce transition and community economic development, and how funds might be accessed from the federal government for such a program.</p>

	<p>Thank you for your work on this!</p>
<p>Scott Mangino For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Scott Mangino, and I'm writing to express my full support of HB23-1074. I currently serve as a member of the Denver Workforce Development Board and the Colorado Department of Higher Education's Stackable Credential Pathways Steering Committee (the byproduct of SB22-191), in addition to being an ardent Future of Work supporter and workforce development advocate.</p> <p>It's a known fact that we struggle to articulate our acquired skills, especially our soft skills, the most transferrable skills for the workplace - skills currently in high demand by Colorado's employers. Additionally, the available technology for job searching by skills needs to be improved to help us find our next opportunity we never realized we were qualified for. We also suspect many of the hard skills we've acquired can easily transfer to other related and adjacent industries.</p> <p>We all are fully aware of the statistics around the number of available jobs far outweighing the number of job seekers. We are also mindful that many jobs are being displaced due to automation. This will not end, nor should it. It is a futile effort to attempt to stifle automation and innovation. Lastly, we know many working families in Colorado financially rely on income from industries our society no longer wishes to support due to the negative impact on our environment.</p> <p>HB23-1074 will allow the state to take an active role in helping our job seekers and employers. Let's instead invest in assisting Coloradans in finding the opportunities they never realized they were qualified for. And when there is a skills gap, let's support the learning opportunities to develop those skills. Let's partner with employers and labor unions to ensure they invest in their workforce and develop the skills of their current workforce for the jobs of tomorrow while they still do the jobs of today. For those industries we no longer wish to support, let's ensure the workers know we're putting them and their families first, and if their employers refuse to invest in their development, we will.</p> <p>By doing this, we create a more resilient workforce that is less susceptible to disruption, a thriving workforce across Colorado. This bill will start the vital process of this culture shift in our workforce. I implore you to vote in favor of HD23-1074. We can only solve this critical problem for working</p>

	families and our economy if we thoroughly understand the problem and the solutions that'll work best for our great state.
--	---