

Testimony for: SB 23- 084 Full Time Employment for Colorado Higher Education Faculty

Good afternoon, Chairwoman McLachlan, and members of the Committee. I am Darius Smith, and I teach at the Community College of Aurora. I am speaking on my behalf to ask you to support SB 23-084, Full-time Employment for Higher Education Faculty.

Education has been a passion my entire life! Teaching has allowed me to change the lives of dozens of people in my local community. Being an adjunct has changed my life in unimaginably profound ways; from helping people understand the idiosyncrasies of the legislative process, to understanding the Law of Large Numbers, guiding students through their educational journey at the Community College of Aurora forces me to grow and develop on my personal journey, which I cannot put into words how much joy this provides.

However, in order to continue on this educational journey, some systematic changes must be made in the compensation of adjuncts. Teaching two to three classes at a community college requires more than 30 hours per week of work. Grading, lesson planning, consultation of students, classroom lectures, and academic activities command at least 40 hours per week of time. The level of economic sacrifice we adjuncts are forced to commit to is not only mindboggling, but quite unnecessary. Careful and progressive attention to the financing of the adjunct positions in the community college system will encourage progressive income for those of us who adore the profession, which will allow us to continue to do it.

Legislative bills such as **SB23-084** will help alleviate the financial distress many adjuncts are forced to go through to perform a profession they love. My personal story as a 35-year old, single, African-American college teacher would not be possible without teachers who impacted my life; one of my biggest goals is to continue this voyage.

Personal Student Loan Forgiveness has allowed and will continue to allow me to continue this voyage with much less financial dilemma. MANY more adjuncts should be incorporated into this program. **SB23-084** will encourage them to continue to impact students' lives in profound ways just as it has allowed me to. Education is a profound equalizer, and in order for it to continue to be, profound progression in the compensation of adjunct instructors is a must. Please support **SB23-084!**

Thank you, Chairwoman McLachlan, and committee members.

I urge you vote yes on SB 23- 084 and support more than 10,000 Higher Education adjunct and full-time workers in Colorado.

House Education

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SB23-084 Full-time Employment For Higher Ed Faculty

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Daniel Pittman For themselves	<p>Testimony for SB23-084: Full-Time Employment For Higher Ed Faculty</p> <p>Good afternoon, Chairwoman McLachlan and members of the House Education Committee. I am Daniel Pittman, and I am an Assistant Professor at Metropolitan State University of Denver. I am speaking on my behalf to ask you to support SB23-084, Full-Time Employment For Higher Ed Faculty.</p> <p>To work in an adjunct position in a STEM related discipline is to know that your compensation, when compared to industry positions, is going to be much lower. This means that the professors working in these part-time roles decided that it is more important to give back to students than it is to pursue higher paying jobs. Unfortunately, many of the people in this position have student loan debt that makes it very difficult to be able to stay in a part-time teaching role. This is the position I was in during my time as an adjunct professor. I believe that having the multiplier updated, so that work as an adjunct instructor can be counted towards PSLF eligibility, will help make part-time instruction a more viable choice for many people that currently have to decide between their desire to give back to the next generation and their financial wellbeing.</p> <p>Thank you Chairwoman McLachlan and committee members.</p> <p>I urge you to support/vote yes on SB23-084 and support more than 10,000 Higher Education adjunct and full-time workers in Colorado.</p>