

To: Colorado Senate State, Veteran, and Military Affairs Committee

From: Cameron Hill, Colorado Common Cause Associate Director

Subject: SCR22-001

Position: Oppose

This testimony is being submitted by Cameron Hill on behalf of Colorado Common Cause, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works for open, honest, and accountable government and seeks to strengthen public participation in civic life.

One of the most important ways lawmakers serve their constituents is to ensure the state is prospering through appropriate allocation of state funds to the areas of greatest need and the areas with the greatest potential return on investment. In Colorado, our lawmakers are already limited by TABOR which arbitrarily limits their ability to make critical changes to our fiscal policy. As a result, the General Assembly cannot respond nimbly to ever evolving issues and trends in Colorado. We believe this limits the success that can be shared among Coloradans.

SCR22-001 would impose additional arbitrary constraints on our lawmakers. Fees provide funding for many vital programs that serve Coloradans. This bill would make it virtually impossible to enact policies that ensure these programs continue to receive the funding they need to serve Coloradans. Further constraints on our lawmakers' ability to enact fiscal policy would be bad for Coloradans.

Imposing a two-thirds voting requirement only on bills that increase fees is undemocratic and sets a dangerous precedent. Future lawmakers could impose similar requirements on subjects such as healthcare or criminal justice which would hamstring our state's ability to address those vital issues.

When we elect our representatives, we entrust them to make decisions and enact policies that will serve us, our families, and our communities. SCR22-001 will significantly undermine their ability to do so and will create dangerous precedent for our democracy.

Please let our legislators legislate. Vote no on SCR22-001.