

SUPPORT SB 22-144

April 5, 2022

ATTN: House Committee on
State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
Colorado General Assembly

Sent via email: chris.kennedy.house@state.co.us, jennifer.bacon.house@state.co.us, andrew.boesenecker.house@state.co.us, alex.valdez.house@state.co.us, steven.woodrow.house@state.co.us, tracey.bernett.house@state.co.us, mary.bradfield.house@state.co.us, Dan.Woog.house@state.co.us, judy.amabile.house@state.co.us, rod.bockenfeld.house@state.co.us, patrick.neville.house@state.co.us, cathy.kipp.house@state.co.us,

Dear Members of the Committee,

As a proud Colorado special education educator for more than 20 years, including over four years as a principal consultant for the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), ***I urge this Committee to pass SB 22-144 as written.*** During my time as the Senior Manager of Preschool Supports for Denver Public Schools, a Principal Consultant to the CDE concerning Child Find and preschool special education, and a preschool teacher/early childhood learning specialist at Hanson Elementary School, I have championed the needs of students with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, and students in the foster care system.

Based on my experience as a principal consultant for the CDE and the senior manager of preschool supports for Denver Public Schools, ***I cannot overstate the importance of letting families of children with disabilities, the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team, and the school districts themselves make decisions regarding the manner in which children are transported to school and school-related activities and the specific training, resources, and personnel each student needs when being transported.*** A one-size-fits-all approach to transportation, which is what the CDE rules and regulations are designed to accomplish, is not only antithetical to the clear intent of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), it also erodes the autonomy and self-determination of families of children with disabilities and the educators that serve them.

Please pass SB 22-144 as written so that we can preserve TNCs as an option for Colorado children with disabilities and provide them, along with many other historically targeted and oppressed communities, their rightful access to a quality, **equitable** education.

Sincerely,


Jane Miyahara

Mr. Gregory Jackson
12503 Grape Street
Thornton, Colorado 80241
April 8, 2022

Senator Rachel Zenzinger
State Capitol, Room 346
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Subject: AB 123, "Public and Nonprofit Entities Rideshare Contracts" by Senator Zenzinger

Dear State House Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee Members:

As your constituent and a registered voter, I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 22-144. I have served as a school administrator and leader in the pupil transportation industry in Colorado for over 20 years. I am submitting my individual statement of support as a director of transportation because my school district's Board of Education has not taken any position on this bill to date.

Given my role, I feel that it is important to communicate how school district transportation departments set the standards for transportation network companies to ensure the safety of students and communities we serve daily. The Colorado Department of Education provides school districts with a minimum standard of operations that provide us a foundation to create policies and procedures that align with each individual districts' mission, which is often more stringent than CDE's standard, but not below its standard. School districts, when vetting transportation network companies through a request for proposal or request for qualifications process, require each company to meet specific qualifications. If the company does not meet these qualifications, it does not enter into a contract with the district.

Over the past few years, in what has been the worst national driver shortage in the history of this country, school districts have had no choice but to contract with transportation network companies to supplement daily route operations. Without passage of this important piece of legislation, school districts will face having to cancel other bus routes in order to provide service to students federally mandated to receive specialized transportation services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act.

Transportation leaders should retain the right to choose the transportation network company that will meet their need to help transport students safely. As a school administrator and leader in the pupil transportation industry, I understand the importance of safety and education of students. This bill will provide school districts with the necessary means to ensure that students mandated to receive specialized transportation do without effecting the service of other students that parents rely on. Please vote in favor of Senate Bill 22-144.

Sincerely,

Gregory Jackson
Executive Director of Transportation & Fleet Services
Jefferson County Public Schools

SUPPORT SB 22-144



April 11, 2022

Dear Members of the Committee,

The Arc of Colorado encourages this Committee to pass SB 22-144 as amended.

The Arc of Colorado promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. As part of our [2022 Policy Agenda](#), transportation is essential to ensure individuals with disabilities are provided with meaningful and equitable opportunities to live, work, and perform everyday activities in a community of their choice at the time of their choosing. Additionally, as an Employment First state committed to addressing barriers and disincentives to employment to ensure that all Coloradans can access meaningful, competitive integrated employment, individuals with disabilities must have access to reliable transportation. Yet many individuals with disabilities currently only have access to inefficient and overburdened transportation. Therefore, we urge this Committee to pass SB 22-144.

SB 22-144 is the first step to ensure transportation network companies (TNCs) are available to fill a void in transportation options for individuals with disabilities, both adults and children. Without SB 22-144, TNCs would effectively be precluded from partnering with tax-exempt entities, such as county departments of health and human services and other state agencies. Given the prevalence of TNC services in this state and the number of individuals with disabilities they currently serve, denying them access to TNC services would only serve to further the inequities individuals with disabilities experience as compared with other Coloradans.

Please pass SB 22-144 as amended so that we can preserve TNCs as an option for Colorado residents of differing abilities and provide them with their rightful access to live, work, and perform in a community of their choice, at a time of their choosing, wherever and whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Christiano Sosa
Executive Director
The Arc of Colorado