

Mr. Gregory Jackson  
12503 Grape Street  
Thornton, Colorado 80241  
April 21, 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

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs  
 04/21/2022 Upon Adjournment  
 SB22-144 Public And Nonprofit Entities Rideshare Contracts  
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Ingrid Wulczyn For Project IDEA	<p>April 8, 2022</p> <p>ATTN: House Committee on            State, Civic, Military, &amp; Veterans Affairs            Colorado General Assembly</p> <p>Dear Members of the Committee,</p> <p>As the owner of Project IDEA, a comprehensive consulting and support organization dedicated to improving the experiences of children with disabilities in schools throughout Colorado, I urge this Committee to pass SB 22-144 as written. Having served Colorado’s children with disabilities since 2011 as a special education teacher, a senior manager of special education for the DSST network and Denver Public Schools, and the co-creator of world class special education programs in many district and charter schools throughout Colorado, I can attest to the dire need for reliable transportation solutions for students and families with unique needs. Many children with special needs lose significant, valuable instruction time due to transportation shortages and a lack of transportation options. The emergence of specialized transportation network companies helps to fill that void.</p> <p>Additionally, having sat through hundreds of Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team meetings, meetings with district-level transportation departments, and key stakeholder meetings with district officials and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), it is my professional opinion that school districts, charter networks, and IEP teams are best equipped to make transportation decisions. If anything, existing bus-driver-like CDE regulations only serve to inhibit the availability of transportation options for students. It is only when families, educators, and district leaders come together to set the standards that we can truly serve the best interests of children and their families. A one-size-fits-all approach to transportation simply can’t meet the needs of all students.</p> <p>Please pass SB 22-144 to fill the void regarding safe, reliable transportation and allow the families of children with disabilities the autonomy to determine what is in their child’s best interest. It’s time to give students with disabilities the educational opportunities they deserve!</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

	Ingrid Wulczyn
Kristen Factor For Self	Dear Committee Members - I am a mom and a bus driver and I'm asking for you to vote yes on senate bill 144. Recently I have had 3 foot surgeries. During my healing process I couldn't drive and my 11 year old daughter was left without transportation to school. Thankfully our school was able to offer us a transportation solution with HopSkipDrive. Every morning a driver comes to get my daughter and I know she is going to be safely transported to school. The drivers have been wonderful and I feel comfortable knowing that I have a background checked caretaker driving my child. I am able to see where the driver is at any time and there is a secret password that ensures the driver is picking up the correct kid. Again, I am so thankful for this service and hope you vote to support SB - 144.
Fayaz Amiri For Self	Dear Colorado Committee Members and Representative Cathy Kipp,  My name is Fayaz Amiri and I ask you to vote for SB 144. While in the middle of moving, HopSkipDrive was able to give my family and I an extra hand during difficult times. The reliability of HopSkipDrive's CareDrivers have been so helpful and caring we now even consider them family. The friendly service has made it easy for my family and I to build a relationship with a particular CareDriver who has managed to schedule consistent rides with my child. The connection between my child and the CareDriver has been so strong it's as if she treats them as they were one of her own. The services that HopSkipDrives provides is incomparable and tremendous.  We're so thankful that Denver Public Schools is working with HopSkipDrive because we are truly satisfied and would not like to change that for any reason. Again, please vote to support SB 144.  Thank you for your consideration, Fayaz Amiri
Isabel Selko For Self	Dear Committee Members and Representative Cathy Kipp:  I ask you to please vote yes on SB-144! I have a 15 year old son who attends a private school out of our district. Due to his special needs we send him to a school further away with few transportation options. For years we were forced to use ALC to get my son to and from school. This service was terrible. Sometimes they just wouldn't show up and there would be no notification. Many mornings my child was left without a way to get to school. I finally gave up on ALC. The service was so inconsistent that I couldn't stand it any more. I started driving my son to school myself. I would lose an hour and half of my day commuting back and forth. Thankfully my work was understanding, however I couldn't continue to do that. I was so happy when Jefferson County School District switched to using HopSkipDrive! This has been such a relief for

	<p>myself and my family. The drivers are much nicer, they are on time, they are reliable, I feel safer knowing my kid is riding with HopSkipDrive.</p> <p>I am active on social media with other parents who are in similar situations. Parents are begging their school districts to use HopSkipDrive instead of ALC. I was one of the lucky ones that had a school district that changed their service. However, there are many parents out there that are not as fortunate. These parents are giving up work, school and other important priorities to rush their kid to school at the last minute when ALC doesn't show up. As elected officials I hope you are listening to the parents when making decisions about our transportation options. I hope you will allow HopSkipDrive to continue to operate as it is and make it easier for them to partner with other school districts. Please, please vote yes on SB 144!</p> <p>Thank you! Bella Selko</p>
<p>Stephanie Vigil Against Colorado Independent Drivers United</p>	<p>I testify today as an independent contractor who works on the sort of applications that will be granted the privilege of public contracts under SB-144. I have serious concerns about the ramifications of handing over transportation services for children, especially those with disabilities or who are living in sensitive situations, to businesses loosely regulated under the overwhelmed Public Utilities Commission.</p> <p>The fact that one of these companies is offering to regulate themselves by writing the rules they'd like to operate under, does not ease these concerns. It's not public regulation if a private company writes the rules they want, and has a bill run just for them to make sure they get it.</p> <p>Transportation of minors to and from school, and school related activities, falls squarely in the Department of Education's purview. The PUC has already shown us that it's not up to the task of holding companies like Uber and Lyft accountable in regards to the rules set for them, notably for transparency in work offers, something for which CIDU drivers are still asking for action. And this is for the transport of children.</p> <p>We in the gig driving world know full well that the companies whose applications we work on are not interested in the security of their customers' data, let alone ours, and that when we give feedback of any kind, whether it's optional or required, it will only ever be used to the company's benefit. The opportunities for discrimination, for misuse of personal information, especially that of minor children, appears to not even be a consideration in this bill.</p> <p>We have too many regulatory wrinkles to iron out in the ride sharing industry to be putting minor children in their care. Giving these for-</p>

	profit companies access to public dollars requires a much stronger and more comprehensive regulatory framework than the state currently provides. I urge a no vote.
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185 Berry Street  
Suite 5000  
San Francisco, CA 94107

**State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**Proponent Testimony for SB 144: Public and Nonprofit Entities Rideshare Contracts**  
**Brent Kent, Public Policy Manager for Lyft**  
**April 21, 2022**

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Chairman Kennedy and members of the State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 22-144 which preserves critical public-private partnerships that serve low-income Colorado residents.

Lyft partners with government agencies throughout Colorado. These programs provide residents, often individuals and families from vulnerable communities, with affordable and accessible transportation. In Colorado, 42% of Lyft rides start or end in low-income areas, 21% of riders use Lyft to access healthcare, and 58% of riders use Lyft to access public transportation.

In Douglas County, residents who are over 60, disabled or low income receive subsidized Lyft rides through the Ride Together program. These are often homeless families or low-income single parents who use rides to access healthcare, work, grocery stores, or community services.

Through RamRide, Colorado State University's Safe Ride program, students receive free or discounted Lyft rides to and from school and to grocery stores to support students' basic needs.

Our partnership with CU Boulder provides safe, convenient and affordable transportation for students, faculty and staff to a new research facility which is located miles from campus. The lab users can get a ride anytime and any day to locations surrounding the lab and campus. As a result CU Boulder estimates they save \$190,000 per year compared to buses or vans.

Our Grocery Access Partnership with Boulder County Public Health provides access to healthy food options for low-income families living in food deserts via free and subsidized Lyft rides. Separately, the Mobility 4 All Program in Boulder County gives residents in affordable housing developments monthly Lyft ride credits with the goal of reducing financial barriers to reliable transportation options. This program gives residents independence by having flexible on-demand transportation options for accessing employment, interviews, groceries, healthcare and community services.

Other recent initiatives in partnership with government entities have included rides for vaccine access, rides for frontline healthcare workers and essential workers, disaster relief, grocery access, prenatal care access, voting access, and DUI prevention programs and the list goes on.

These important partnerships are in jeopardy if government entities are prohibited from providing transportation via contracts with Transportation Network Companies. Please pass SB 22-144 and protect these vital programs. We appreciate your leadership in protecting affordable, accessible transportation access. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for your consideration.

Brent A. Kent  
brentk@lyft.com

**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



# HOUSE STATE, CIVIC, MILITARY, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

## *SB 22-144*

Thursday, April 21, 2022

*Written Testimony for Harry Hartfield, on Behalf of Uber Technologies Inc.*

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Chairwoman Kennedy, Vice Chair Woodrow and Committee Members,

Uber welcomes the opportunity to support SB-144, which would help ensure Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) can continue to operate in partnership with state and local government agencies in Colorado. As drafted, the law would protect existing TNC partnerships with hospitals, nonprofits, state agencies like CDOT, and more.

Under a recent Colorado Administrative Court ruling, the state's existing TNC legislation would not cover services provided under a contract with a political subdivision or other tax-exempt entity. The decision likely means the Colorado Public Utility Commission (CPUC), which acts as our regulator in the state, cannot regulate contracts between TNCs and a state or local government entity. As a result, it may not be possible for TNCs to enter into contracts with these groups.

We're proud to have several longstanding partnerships with groups across the state serving everyday Coloradans. In Colorado, we work with two government agencies, several state universities, more than fifty hospitals and outpatient clinics, and several non-profits. All of that work could be at risk without this legislation. Among the specific projects that may be untenable going forward are:

- Our [partnership with CDOT](#) to provide \$15 in rides credits to help reduce impaired driving.
- Our partnerships to provide transportation at several University of Colorado facilities, including The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.
- Our existing relationships with transport doctors, nurses, and patients with several local, county-funded hospital systems.
- Our work with the White House to provide free rides to and from COVID-19 vaccination locations.

It's not just existing programs that could be impacted. In other states, we've worked with the federal government to provide transportation to and from military bases for servicemen and women. Our hope is to expand those partnerships to Colorado, but that would likely not be feasible without this legislation.

Even if we're able to continue to operate these partnerships, it would be with significant regulatory uncertainty, which is not ideal for Uber or the riders and drivers who depend on our platform.

These partnerships are an important part of our efforts to reduce DUIs and make roads safer for all Coloradans. A [national study from UC Berkeley](#) showed that Uber reduced alcohol-related traffic fatalities in the US by 6.1% and reduced overall traffic fatalities by 4%.

Safety is at the heart of everything we do as a company, and we recognize the Committee's interest in this issue. We believe SB-144 is necessary to ensure that TNCs can continue to provide essential services to hundreds of thousands of Coloradans across the state and look forward to addressing any concerns or thoughts you may have.

Thank you,

Harry Hartfield  
Senior Public Affairs Manager for Uber



April 12, 2022

RE: SB22-144

Dear Committee Members:

Special Olympics Colorado is pleased to write a letter to express our support for Senate Bill 22-144. For nearly 60 years, Special Olympics Colorado has been improving lives on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities statewide.

Transportation is a key issue that impacts Special Olympics athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A high portion of our athletes depend on public transportation and rideshare programs as a safe and reliable form of transportation to travel to and from competitions, navigate to work and the grocery store, and visit friends and family. Transportation options are essential to the mobility of all people with disabilities and how they move in and around the state.

SB 22-144 is important, providing nonprofits like Special Olympics Colorado and our athletes with disabilities the necessary support to lead productive and independent lives.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Scremin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Megan Scremin  
President & CEO

April 12, 2022

Special Olympics Colorado  
Jeff Steron, Donor Relations Assistant  
12450 E. Arapahoe Rd. Suite C  
Centennial, CO 80112

RE: Support for SB144

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Jeff Steron and I am a Colorado resident and a Special Olympics athlete competing in bowling and golf. I am writing to you to advocate on behalf of myself and other individuals who rely on public transportation and ridesharing companies. I have mild Cerebral Palsy on the right side of my body and I do not drive. Having access to transportation is important to me as I live independently and work at Special Olympics Colorado. Working gives me an opportunity to communicate with people every day and earn my own money.

To get to work every day at the Special Olympics Colorado State Office, I take FlexRide to the Arapahoe station and switch busses to get to my office. After work, I take a Lyft to get home and take a Lyft to and from the grocery store every week. I like to take the Lyft home from work, especially in the winter because the bus stops are not covered and have a lot of snow and ice. This makes it difficult for me to stand at the bus stop. In addition, when not many busses run, I have to wait a long time if I miss a bus and it gets dark and I feel unsafe.

To the person reading this, I hope you will support rideshare companies being available and accessible for people like me. Lyft gives me the opportunity to get to work and do activities on my own. It is important for everyone with and without disabilities to be able to get to work and their activities and to be independent. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Steron