

First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Testifying	Text of Testimony
Matt	Cook	For	Colorado Association of School Boards	Submitted text	

The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) supports the intent of HB21-1164 to correct the total program mill levies for school districts whose mill levies were erroneously reduced through a misinterpretation of the Public School Finance Act of 1994 by the Colorado Department of Education. CASB members understand the current system of local mill levies is fundamentally flawed. The current system places an unfair tax burden on some communities that are least likely to be able to support these inequitable taxes. Finally, the current system does not support students in a fair and equitable manner because the state’s shortfall in fully funding the School Finance Act is over \$1 billion this year alone.

HB21-1164 would result in more equitably assessing local mill levies, which would in turn, free up state money, money that should go toward fully funding the School Finance Act in order to provide fair and equitable funding for students across Colorado.

An overwhelming majority of Colorado citizens voted to allow their local school district(s) to retain taxes collected above and beyond the limits of Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution, aka “Tax Payer Bill of Rights”. Requiring the Colorado Department of Education to correct a decades-old miscalculation in regards to how mill levies are assessed will restore the original intent of voters.

The system proposed by HB21-1164 provides adequate time to implement any potential mill levy increases so as not to place an undue burden on any Colorado community.

While HB21-1164 is an important first step to more adequately and equitably fund Colorado public schools — it is only that, a first step. CASB stands ready to work with our elected leaders to ensure we are advancing excellence in public education and equity for each and every student so that they can achieve their full academic potential.