



## PLEASE SUPPORT HB 18-1300

### *Providing Parity to Offer Bachelor of Science in Nursing Completion Degrees*

Sponsors – Representatives Dave Young & Perry Buck, and Senators John Cooke & Vickie Marble

*- Passed unanimously on 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading in the House, as well as House committee -*

HB 18-1300 simply provides Aims Community College with the same authority as all other community colleges to offer Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) completion degrees for students who have or are pursuing an associate degree in nursing.

This bill would create parity for all of Colorado's public community colleges: *authority was provided to the Colorado Community College System through HB 18-1086 and Colorado Mountain College through SB 10-101*. Absent passage, Aims Community College would be the only community college in Colorado without such authority.

### BACKGROUND

Colorado, as well as the rest of the nation, is experiencing a critical nursing shortage. The General Assembly has been rightly focused on solutions to address this shortage, hence the recent passage of HB 18-1086 which provided this authority to the Colorado Community College System.

**Colorado's community colleges serve a large number of non-traditional students, who are working and/or raising families at the same time they are seeking to move their education path forward.** 2-year institutions provide an important, flexible, and less expensive opportunity for these students.

Currently, the University of Northern Colorado allows Aims students to enroll in both institutions simultaneously. However, only about 75% of our students have the time and financial resources to enroll in two institutions simultaneously. While this is a significant number, there remains 25% of students without a clear and immediate path to complete their BSN. It is to meet this need that Aims is seeking passage of this legislation.

The process for establishing such a program would mirror the existing process for Colorado Mountain College's process for baccalaureate degrees and Aims' current authority for Bachelor of Applied Science degrees – **which includes review and approval by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education**, whose decision will be based on the following information to be provided by Aims:

- a due diligence review of **workforce and student demand**;
- demonstration of **compliance** with professional and accreditation requirements;
- demonstration of **cost-effectiveness** for the service area; and,
- a **cost-benefit analysis** that the program will not negatively impact the college or require additional state funds to operate.

### POSITION OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The **Colorado Community College System** offered their support for Aims' efforts to seek this authority, **all other institutions are neutral.**

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