

Madam Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Meghan Dollar and I am the SVP of government affairs for the Colorado Chamber of Commerce. Our members are businesses of all sizes, economic development organizations and local chambers across the state.

Colorado's declining affordability is a critical economic issue – 76% of business leaders said it's a top barrier for attracting talent in the [Chamber's recent annual CEO poll](#). The cost and availability of child care across Colorado plays a major role in the state's cost-of-living crisis, with many business leaders linking the issue to workforce shortages. According to data from ReadyNation, the Colorado economy loses approximately \$2.2 billion annually due to the shortage of child care.

In 2022, the average cost of infant child care in the state was \$19,573 per year for an infant and \$16,307 per year for a toddler. When compared to median household incomes in the state, child care for one infant can account for about 16.4% of annual income for a married couple household and 49.3% for a single-parent household in Colorado.

In order to improve Colorado's cost of living, the Chamber's [Vision 2033 plan](#) identifies the goal of retaining and strengthening incentives for expanded child care. The Chamber's 2024 legislative agenda also prioritizes improving the affordability of and access to child care.

That's why the Colorado Chamber supports [House Bill 1237](#), which will help alleviate issues of access and cost for working families, making more Coloradans available for employment and expanding the talent pool for business recruitment.

Thank you and please vote yes on HB 1237.



March 2024

To: House Transportation , Housing and Local Government Committee

Re: AAUW Support for HB1237- Programs for the Development of Child Care Facilities

Dear Committee Members,

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. More than 700 community leaders are AAUW members in local branches around the state.

AAUW has led the fight for economic empowerment for women, and we have made progress over the years. Yet women continue to face barriers to reach our full potential. One of these barriers is the lack of childcare. Colorado is in crisis due to a lack of childcare facilities, which means thousands of women are not able to work. In turn, this impacts our families, our communities and our state's economy.

HB24-1237 will establish three programs that will help prospective childcare providers, along with developers and local governments work together to increase the number and quality of childcare facilities throughout Colorado. With more childcare options available, women will have more options to achieve economic equity and security for their families. HB1237 represents an investment that will more than pay for itself.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado urges your YES vote in committee and as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

**Su Ryden**

**AAUW Colorado Public Policy Co-Director**

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*American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

**Testimony as prepared for delivery in support of HB24-1237: Programs for the Development of Child Care Facilities by Lauren Corboy, Senior Policy Analyst at the Colorado Children's Campaign**

**House Transportation, Housing, and Local Government Committee**

**March 6, 2024, 1:30pm**

Dear Madame Chair and members of the Transportation, Housing, and Local Government Committee,

My name is Lauren Corboy and I am a Senior Policy Analyst at the Colorado Children's Campaign. The Colorado Children's Campaign is a non-profit, non-partisan, policy, research and advocacy organization, committed to securing every chance for every child in Colorado since our founding in 1985. That includes advocating for public policies and investments that remove barriers for most impacted children and families and improve well-being for every child and family. The Children's Campaign supports House Bill 24-1237, Programs for the Development of Child Care Facilities, because it will provide local governments and public-private partnerships with increased access to technical assistance and grants in order to build child care facilities in an intentional manner that best serves Colorado's children and families.

The creation of more "child friendly communities", or places where the needs of children and families can be met close to home or work, would lead to the development of more child care facilities, more child care slots, and more access for families to quality care. This would be especially true for Coloradans from low-income families. Unfortunately, opening a new family child care home or commercial child care center can prove daunting for prospective owners. Zoning laws, construction codes, insurance requirements, safety regulations...all of these can be more complicated, time-consuming, and costly than those for building other types of commercial properties. As a result, many potential family child care home or center owners stop the process before they even really get started.

Statewide, there are approximately 82,000 licensed child care slots for nearly 240,000 children under 6 with all available parents in the workforce, meaning we are only able to serve about 34% of children who need quality care. This bill will give potential owners the support they need to get projects off the ground, creating critical child care slots at a time when we need them most. Further, that availability will be at family child care homes or centers that will be more convenient and accessible for families, making it easier for adults to go to work while their children receive quality care.

Lastly, this bill has the added benefit of aligning with efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing in communities across the state. As we strive to make housing more attainable for all Coloradans, this bill provides an opportunity to make our communities as

integrated and purposeful as possible for families, increasing access to child care in the places where families live and work.

Thank you, Madame Chair and members of the committee. I urge your support on HB 24-1237.

Lauren Corboy, MEd

Senior Policy Analyst, Colorado Children's Campaign

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COUNCIL FOR A  
**STRONG AMERICA**  
COLORADO

March 5, 2024

Dear Transportation, Housing, and Local Government Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the members of Council for a Strong America (CSA) Colorado to urge your support for HB 24-1237.

CSA is a national, bipartisan nonprofit that unites membership organizations including law enforcement leaders ([Fight Crime: Invest in Kids](#)), retired admirals and generals ([Mission: Readiness](#)), and business executives ([ReadyNation](#)), that promote evidence-based solutions to ensure our children will be prepared for successful lives.

CSA Colorado recently completed work on a Colorado specific research report that demonstrates the impact of insufficient child care on the Colorado economy. The result of that work, which will be released in the coming weeks, is that Colorado parents, businesses, and taxpayers combined are losing \$2.7 billion annually due to the child care crisis affecting infants and toddlers alone.

HB 24-1237 will provide local governments, private partners, developers, and child care providers with the tools and support they need to meet the child care challenges in their local communities. The legislation proposes technical assistance, planning grants, and capital grants, directly responding to the needs of child care providers and those that want to enter the field.

The effort to support HB 24-1237 has an extremely broad and diverse coalition of supporters who understand the need for capital funding and support for facilities, including workforce supports, in order to expand the supply of child care in Colorado. As a part of that coalition, Council for a Strong America Colorado respectfully requests your support for this critical legislation.

Sincerely,  
Michael Cooke

**M. Michael Cooke**  
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