

House Education

02/12/2026 01:30 PM

HB26-1090 Teacher Licensing Requirements

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jeany Rush For themselves	<p>TO: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE</p> <p>RE: HB26-1090 TEACHER LICENSING REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>SPONSORS: LUCK, MARTINEZ, GONZALES</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO CONSTITUENT</p> <p>VOTER: YES YES YES</p> <p>“The bill requires that an applicant disclose a misdemeanor conviction committed against an at-risk person or a child, regardless of the date of conviction, but does not require that an applicant disclose a misdemeanor conviction that occurred more than 7 years ago, unless it was committed against an at-risk person or a child.</p> <p>The bill requires that the department of education waive the program of preparation and alternative teacher program requirements and induction program requirement for applicants with a minimum of 2 years of private school teaching experience in Colorado.💎 Your words!</p> <p>This is the gist of the bill, and it truly seems reasonable, and much needed to protect in specific, children in our schools! There has not been enough protection for our schools from often, would-be harmful people in our Educational Systems!</p> <p>Our current Department of Education has entirely too many agendas that create political, partisan, and social justice issues, which trespass over the true rules for Academic Education. Often people somehow pass through the qualifications of our hallowed halls of education, but have issues which could pose a true threat to young minds.</p> <p>This extra vetting step is a much needed protection for the classrooms of our State. My concerns are that the Colorado Dept. of Education has displayed some rather radical positions, and they actually do not follow the constitution. This bill helps keep the ship sailing in a proper direction!</p> <p>Further, there are literally groups, which are now being categorized, and declared terror groups. This poses another issue which our education system will also be exposed to should people participate in such groups. This would go a long way to sound an alarm, protecting our children from exposures which do not work well with academic agendas.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>

Good Afternoon, Madame Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee.

My name is Kevin Vick. I am the proud president of the Colorado Education Association and I am here on behalf of our nearly 40,000 educators across the state of Colorado. I'm here today in a supportive amend position on this bill.

We are facing severe educator shortages across the state. If we are serious about addressing this, we must ensure that our licensure system is fair, evidence-based, and does not create unnecessary barriers for qualified candidates. HB-1090 does just that by modernizing how prior misdemeanor convictions are considered in the licensure process. By taking a more nuanced approach to misdemeanor history, this bill helps expand the educator pipeline while maintaining important safety guardrails. It also addresses a rigid barrier that disproportionately impacts candidates of color.

We appreciate the sponsors' willingness to amend the bill to remove provisions related to private schools. Colorado's licensure system exists to ensure consistent preparation for public school educators. Creating an alternative pathway based solely on private school experience risks undermining that consistency and requires a longer conversation.

Our state deserves a licensure system that is rigorous, fair, and aligned with workforce realities. With the proposed amendment, we believe this bill strikes that balance.

CEA respectfully urges the Committee to adopt the amendment and move the bill forward. Thank you for your time.



House Education Committee Members:

This letter is a statement of opposition to HB26-1090 on behalf of the 15 institutions of higher education in Colorado who constitute our membership. We agree with the good intention behind HB26-1090 to broaden access to the education profession, but we believe that the bill goes about it in the wrong way.

The history of teacher preparation follows a predictable cycle: When a surplus of teachers exists, standards for entering the profession are raised. When teacher shortages exist, standards are lowered. The predictable result of lowering standards is classrooms with under-prepared, poor teachers, which does not serve the children of the state. Public backlash inevitably follows.

Teaching is an art, but it is also a science with centuries of proven practice that can, and is, taught in high quality teacher preparation programs. Much of this science cannot be learned “on the job,” and even those practices that can be learned through experience take time to master. Meanwhile, the teacher’s pupils suffer at the expense of the teacher’s learning.

We urge the committee to reject HB26-1090 in this legislative session and we invite the sponsors to work with us to develop policy that both increases access to the education profession and maintains high standards of preparation for teachers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jared R. Stallones, Acting President
Rocky Mountain Association for Educator Preparation