



March 2026

To: Senate Finance Committee

Re: AAUW SUPPORTS HB1146--Allow Facility Schools to Participate in PERA

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. Many women in Colorado teach in facility schools, which may often require a high level of commitment to students in a variety of challenging situations. Yet, until now, they have not had the opportunity to participate in PERA. HB1146 could impact the lives of as many as 1,000 teachers in 35 approved facility schools. AAUW believes the time is now to allow these teachers a chance at ensuring a better retirement in the future.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB1146 and urges your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Hon. Su Ryden
AAUW Colorado Advocacy Director

16699 E. Kentucky Ave.

Aurora, CO 80017

303.898.5797

suryden25@gmail.com

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.