



March 2026

To: House Finance Committee
Re: AAUW Supports HB1221--Tax Expenditure Adjustments

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. Due to recent actions at the federal level, those barriers have become higher, not lower, especially for women and their families . AAUW applauds the sponsors of HB1221 for finding fair measures to continue critical tax credits while balancing the state's budget.

AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB1221 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

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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.

Dear Chair Woodrow, Vice Chair Titone, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rorey King, and I am writing on behalf of United Way of Larimer County in strong support of HB26-1221, HB26-1222, and HB26-1223. These bills decouple Colorado's tax code from certain federal provisions created through H.R. 1, remove the downloadable software tax exemption, and establish the Family Affordability Credit. Together, they help ensure that low-income families with children continue to receive the critical financial support provided through the Family Affordability Tax Credit, especially during times of state budget deficits and economic uncertainty, and prevent corporate tax benefits from coming at the expense of families.

At United Way of Larimer County, we believe that every young person should have what they need to thrive. From advancing family financial stability and expanding access to quality child care to strengthening the foundations for high school graduation, our work focuses on removing the barriers that keep families living paycheck to paycheck and prevent young people from reaching their full potential. Providing and advocating for reliable, flexible financial support for low-income families with children is central to that mission.

One way we do this is through our WomenGive program, which covers the cost of child care for single mothers pursuing higher education and provides monthly cash assistance to program graduates during the year following graduation. Every WomenGive recipient qualifies for the Family Affordability Tax Credit. When asked about the credit, one graduate shared that when she filed her taxes in April 2025, she received more than \$7,000 back from the state. Without that support, she wasn't sure how she would have made ends meet. The credit helped cover rent and basic expenses, allowing her to stay enrolled in school and sustain herself and her three children through her final semester and the summer that followed.

This recipient's experience aligns with our data; according to the Colorado ALICE report, nearly 30% of single-woman-led households with children under 18 live in poverty, and an additional 25% live above the federal poverty level but still struggle to afford basic necessities. Tax credits like the Family Affordability Tax Credit helped reduce child poverty in Colorado by 40.5%. However, due to the state's current budget deficit, this support is at risk.

United Way of Larimer County supports the solution presented through the 2026 Tax Package, which ensures that federal tax benefits for corporations do not result in the loss of essential support for our WomenGive recipients and for low-income families with children across Colorado. With the cost of living continuing to rise in Colorado and public assistance benefits being stripped away at the federal level, it is critical that we protect the strides that we have made as a state, like the Family Affordability Tax Credit, to make life more affordable and accessible for working families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rorey King

Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy
United Way of Larimer County