



February 2025

To: House Education Committee

Re: AAUW Support for HB 1038--Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website

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, girls and young women continue to face barriers to reach their full potential. HB 1038 breaks down one of those barriers: fragmented information and inconsistent access to credit transfer details. HB 1038 will provide easy access to a one-stop website with all the information current and prospective students need to determine their pathway to a higher ed degree at any Colorado college or university.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB 1038 and asks for your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Su Ryden

AAUW Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

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Aurora, CO 80017

303.898.5797

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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.

Madam Chair Lukens and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Miguel Garcia, and I am here today to represent myself and the organization Young Invincibles. I live in Aurora and am 21 years old and a senior at the Metropolitan State University of Denver. Before attending MSU, I was a Community College of Aurora student from 2021-2023. As the son of immigrant parents, the opportunity to attend higher education is a privilege I hold near to my heart and feel immensely grateful for. My time at MSU and CCA allowed me to travel for competitions for MSU's Mock Trial and Model UN teams, connect and learn about various subjects, and even intern with Senator Hickenlooper in Washington, DC, this past summer. However, for many, including myself, the "college experience" is often hindered by a confusing systemic credit transfer system that has cost precious time and money.

You see, when I transferred in 2023 to MSU Denver from CCA, All I got was an email from MSU saying they had accepted 40 out of the 54 credits I had completed at CCA. To this day, I have no idea what classes or credits MSU did not accept and why not. That being said, I am lucky since I will still graduate on time this May; I had to take a \$100 Spanish CLEP test to test out of 16 credits, which will put me back on track to graduate. It took considerable time to have credits apply to my transcript, and the time in between was both daunting and stressful as a student who doesn't know if they will have to accrue more student debt to pay another semester's tuition, not to mention a \$100 test is not always a financially viable option for everyone. From my experience, I can tell you that having a platform where relevant information about which credits and courses, work-related experiences, and prior learning opportunities are transferable to or between the state's public institutions of higher education could have saved me money and time. It could have also helped me plan my classes to maximize the credits that could be transferred. It is important to note that with every credit earned, there was time, hard work, and dedication to earning every credit, and that work should be honored and respected.

As a young Coloradoan directly impacted by a lack of transparent post-secondary credit transfers, and for the sake of young Coloradoans everywhere, I urge you to please vote yes on HB25-1038.

Dear Madam Chair and members of the committee,

I thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Lenlee Davis, and I am here today to represent myself and the organization Young Invincibles. I am 25, and I am currently a full-time graduate student working as a policy analyst for the government. I live in Denver have always lived in Denver, specifically Montbello. I have attended 5 Colorado schools, including two community colleges and three universities.

I have had to transfer countless credits between institutions and work with peers who have also had to transfer credits. I have been the victim of credits failing to transfer and have felt the discouragement resulting from the uncertainty of how long my academic journey will extend and the costs. The uncertainty of credits not transferring can be an active deterrence for students as they decide whether to continue their education.

In my case, my credits transferred relatively smoothly, aside from a couple of social science credits and art credits; the harm is that the failure of these credits to transfer costs thousands of dollars; had I known beforehand, I could have chosen my classes more strategically and saved at least \$5,000.

I still chose to finish despite the costs, but my sister, who did begin an associate's program with me and could not afford the extra costs, did not finish her degree program. Several friends have reapplied to continue their education, but because of unexpected expenses and time investments, they have decided against it.

To act in the best interest of Colorado students and our workforce, I urge the House Education Committee and Colorado's Higher Education institutions to please support HB25-1038. As a young Coloradoan directly impacted by the failure to transfer college credits, I urge you to vote yes to it.

Looking forward to your response,

Lenlee Davis

Dear House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Cyrus Holt and I am representing myself. I am also a Civic Influencer Fellow with Rocky Mountain Partnership Cradle to Career, which is a nine month civic leadership program for youth ages 16-24. I am writing in support of HB25-1038: Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website.

I am a current college student, and believe that with the passing of this bill and creation of the credit transfer website will benefit myself and future college students.

I believe it would benefit myself, by providing me with a clear website that houses all available and possible transfer credits. It would make it easier to view what credits I have received in high school, and how they can transfer to college. This transfer of credit earned in high school will help my college go by quicker and help me have credentials for the workforce / professional fields.

This bill would benefit current high school students and future college students by giving them a platform to view all received credits and how they will transfer to a college of their choice.

I am in favor of the passage of this bill because of the information provided above. I do also think it will help marginalized members of our community with making decisions regarding higher education.

Thank you for your consideration,
C.D. Holt

Dear House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Itzel Orduna and I am representing myself. I am also a Civic Influencer Fellow with Rocky Mountain Partnership Cradle to Career, which is a nine month civic leadership program for youth ages 16-24. I am writing in support of HB25-1038: Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website.

I have had the privilege of working within the college access sector over the last four years. Many of the students I work with often identify as first-generation. The passing of this bill will allow students the opportunity to better plan their future and make the pathway to college more attainable.

In addition, those already working on their associate's degree will be able to better understand how their credits will transfer. The current system in place often adds more barriers and is not efficient. This often discourages students from transferring schools and obtaining a bachelor's degree. The passing of this bill will provide more opportunities and remove barriers for Coloradans.

Sincerely,

Itzel Orduna

Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Ryan Artmann and I am representing myself. I am also a Civic Influencer Fellow with Rocky Mountain Partnership Cradle to Career, which is a nine month civic leadership program for youth ages 16-24. I am writing in support of HB25-1038: Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website.

I am a graduating senior in the Adams 12 Five Star School district. Throughout this nearly four year journey, my family and I have spent nearly \$1300 on AP courses; the primary motivator being that those courses might give me credit for in-depth education without the enormous costs of a college class that will teach me the exact same material. In retrospect, I dislike being incentivized to throw dozens of darts at the wall hoping some of them stick and I end up saving money. Having knowledge about what my preferred colleges take in terms of credit would make my whole high school experience less of a gamble and more of a genuine pursuit of my interests.

Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Sarah Hughes and I am representing myself. I am also a Civic Influencer Fellow with Rocky Mountain Partnership Cradle to Career, which is a nine month civic leadership program for youth ages 16-24. I am writing in support of HB25-1038: Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website.

Having credits from my high school, my community college, and my university all located in one platform would be amazing. I would be able to compare apples to apples instead of apples to alpacas. I shouldn't have to spend days researching and contacting school officials to make sure that my math credit from Front Range Community College is acceptable and able to be substituted at Metropolitan State University.

This bill would allow students to continue their education at another institution in a far less stressful fashion and would help Coloradans go back to school to finish what they started. Having this information in one location would be a game changer for all school career counselors and advisors, because your advisor shouldn't have to know a guy in order for you to get the information you need. I believe this idea would benefit from a time constraint, because it's easier to work when all parties know the deadline and it would demonstrate that Colorado's government cares about this issue.

This bill will be good for Colorado's economy and help grow our talent right here. Talent has historically moved to Colorado, but HB25-1038 will help people move up in Colorado, not out.

Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Sarah Hughes and I am representing myself. I am also a Civic Influencer Fellow with Rocky Mountain Partnership Cradle to Career, which is a nine month civic leadership program for youth ages 16-24. I am writing in support of HB25-1038: Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website.

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House Education

02/13/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1038 Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

| Name, Position, Representing | Typed Text of Testimony |
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| Julianna Wainright For themselves | <p>I have always been a highly motivated learner as is a normality for Gifted and Talented Students. I learn best in classrooms that encourage me to excel as well as challenge me to become a better learner. Because of this I have found great interest in advanced courses such as AP classes and concurrent enrollment. Having a comprehensive record of an institution's most recent awards of postsecondary transfer credits would be invaluable. My GT advisor is a brilliant woman who I have worked closely with to carefully craft my class schedule to best benefit me. We look at the classes that I have the most interest in and relate the classes available to my goals. While it is easy to see what classes will best support my aspirations it is significantly more difficult to understand which classes would be accepted at the institutions I wish to attend. Because there is no cohesive way to get the information I need to make decisions when it comes to class choice, I often have to hope that the institutions I want to go to will accept my transferable credits. Having hope does not guarantee that the work put into those classes will ultimately be rewarded. Advanced courses require a significant amount of hard work. Spending time to do well in these classes just to later discover they won't be accepted at certain postsecondary institutions is frustrating. Even working with my GT advisor it is extremely difficult to ensure that the classes I am picking will support my future. A lack of information makes registration time very stressful. In order to make information more readily available, reduce stress, and support not only GT students but the entirety of the student body, the implementation of a postsecondary credit transfer website is necessary.</p> |
| Grace Jackson For themselves | <p>Madame chair and members of the committee. Hello. Thank you for letting me share my thoughts with you today. My name is Grace Jackson, a member of the Colorado Gifted and Talented Student Board, and I am in support of this bill. I go to a rural high school, with little resources and Advanced Placement opportunities. There are not many trained counselors that are able to provide students with the</p> |

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| | <p>information this bill plans to make public and easily available; causing the students to waste time and money that they could've used for other resources. My school doesn't offer many AP's, and the AP's they do offer are not offered every year. This is something I struggle with and argue with my school about. This bill could show schools with issues like this what is valuable to offer the students in the district. I go to a Career Technical Education school, many know it as a CTE school, where classes are offered by a certain pathway. Popular ones are nursing, animal science, and engineering, careers that require much education and experience. With CTE pathways, there is something called Work-Based Learning, valuable work experience opportunities. These are valuable learning opportunities, and it should be common knowledge what post-secondary institutions will accept these work opportunities as credit, so students know where to apply to college based on acceptance of these credits. Personally, I am taking four classes through the University of Northern Colorado, as well AP Music Theory, and I plan to take two AP's next year (if my school offers it) and four AIMS classes. A constant thought that has crossed my mind is "where would these credits transfer, if any? Is this a waste of my time and my parents' money? What do I need to get on my AP tests in order for them to be accepted?" This bill will make it so I know what classes and things to focus on throughout my high school career, so I am aware of what to spend my time and parents' money on. The reason I am taking the rigorous course load I am is to save money, because I am no fool. Education is expensive and I am trying to make it so that is not true for my family, but how do I know if these efforts are in vain? This bill is the answer. I support the passing of HB25-1038 Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website. Thank you.</p> |
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House Education

02/06/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1038 Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

| Name, Position, Representing | Typed Text of Testimony |
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| Amara Fantl For themselves | <p>I am a junior at an alternative high school in Parker, CO. We are small by design and offer innovative, entrepreneurial-centered, educational opportunities that focus on preparation for post-secondary workforce success. As such, we do not have the traditional opportunity to take AP or many of the well-known courses that colleges are used to seeing on transcripts. We also don't go to school on Fridays, we go to internships in industries of choice. And, we participate in something called LivedX, which offers college credit for submitting real-world experiences.</p> <p>These are all wonderful opportunities, but we're a new school. We've never had a graduating class, so I will be the first. This makes it difficult for me to understand what these opportunities will translate to when no other school is participating in them, or at least this combination of them.</p> <p>I love my school, but we don't focus on college. We focus on the workforce. As someone whose dream is to attend a 4-year college and then receive a master's degree, I need to know what my experience at my school is doing for my future. Please, as a citizen and future employee, I ask you to vote yes on this bill so I, and all the other CO students, can have the knowledge we need to build the future we are fighting so hard for.</p> |
| Hani Sheldon For themselves | Written As a student in my sophomore year beginning to think about my future I believe this bill would be extremely beneficial. The idea of college itself is a stressful topic for many students but then also having to worry about how and where they can transfer their credits adds a new layer. There are programs in place that can help students |

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| | <p>go through this process yet they aren't free. This bill would not only allow access but also no cost. Therefore, I believe that HB25-1038 should be past to lower the stress during an already difficult time and give all students the same access regardless of money. Thank you for your time.</p> |
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Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Sarah Hughes and I am representing myself. I am also a Civic Influencer Fellow with Rocky Mountain Partnership Cradle to Career, which is a nine month civic leadership program for youth ages 16-24. I am writing in support of HB25-1380: Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website.

Having credits from my high school, my community college, and my university all located in one platform would be amazing. I would be able to compare apples to apples instead of apples to alpacas. I shouldn't have to spend days researching and contacting school officials to make sure that my math credit from Front Range Community College is acceptable and able to be substituted at Metropolitan State University.

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