

Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and Esteemed Education Committee:

I am Autumn Brooks, Volunteer Lobbyist with Clear Creek School District Re-1 (CCSD). Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today concerning SB22-088. Increasing students' pathways to success after leaving K-12 institutions has been a priority of CCSD for some time now, and we are always interested in increasing the available resources for our students.

CCSD is a recipient of the [Colorado Succeeds Prize](#) for our Homegrown Talent Initiative. Our initiative was created because CCSD recognizes that not all of our students are college bound. Even if students are, having skills to fall back on is important for our students as well. K-12 institutions' job is to prepare our students for their next phase in life. To do so requires promoting all possible avenues for our students' future success. SB22-088 also recognizes this opportunity.

In one 30 day period, during 2021, Colorado construction trades had 5,000 vacancies as demand for their work continues to grow, according to the [Beauro of Labor Statistics](#). The latest confirmed data shows that in November 2021, an additional 358 job vacancies became available in the construction industry in Colorado. Yet the same data indicates that there are not enough bodies in the industry to cover demand. This means demand for continued building is more than what our current industry can handle, it has been this way for some time now.

With an industry like construction in such demand, complete with several benefits for our future graduates, SB22-088 will create pathways not just for Colorado's youth, but for the future of the state as well. Students who choose the construction trades, also choose to ensure Colorado's infrastructure will continue to function. Not just continue its functionality, but this generation of students will improve it. An investment in today's youth is an investment in Colorado's future.

CCSD is for SB22-088, the positive impacts of this bill will be felt for generations to come. CCSD urges each and everyone on the Senate Education Committee to vote yes and invest in our students' and Colorado's future.

Thank you.