



March 1, 2018

Senate Education Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 East Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

RE: HB 18-1052 -Exception To 2-year Higher Education Service Areas

Dear Chairman Hill and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

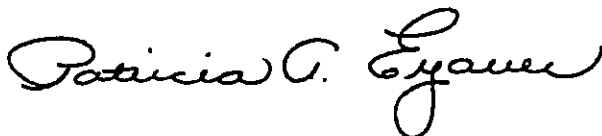
I write to you today to encourage you to support HB 18-1052 - Exception To 2-year Higher Education Service Areas. As President of Pueblo Community College, I think it is very beneficial to expand concurrent enrollment to areas not currently being served.

Our rural students deserve the same opportunities made easily available to our urban students, and although challenging, with the use of modern technology and a genuine desire to offer a quality education to all individuals, more students can be served. For the many students wishing to remain in their own community, travel is not an option. This then becomes *the* excuse to not pursue a higher education, which ultimately affects their ultimate potential earning power and contributions to communities in desperate need of the economic impact driven by education.

Pueblo Community College has developed a model to address such needs, partnering with local school districts to share resources where there is simply not enough critical mass to operate independently. Teacher shortage and credentialing, the delivery of the pedagogy, and student service supports are but a few of the barriers the college has addressed using state of the art technology. Pueblo Community College is prepared to duplicate this model of excellence in those areas in need of support. The passage of HB 18-1052 would allow us the flexibility to do so.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or if I may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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