

SUBMITTED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Committee House Finance
Meeting Date 06/11/2020 Upon Adjournment

Bill Number	First Name	Last Name	Position on Bill	Representing	Testifying	Text of Testimony
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HB20-1427	Lance	Hostetter	For	Colorado Succeeds	Submitted text	Members of the Committee,
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My name is Lance Hostetter, Manager of Government Affairs for Colorado Succeeds, a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of business leaders committed to improving the state’s public education system.

On behalf of our board of directors, I’m writing in support of HB 1427. In our view by expanding the Cigarette Tobacco and Nicotine Products Tax and allocating significant money toward education, particularly preschool and pre-kindergarten programming, the state would take a significant step toward providing all Colorado kids access to high quality early learning opportunities.

Studies show that students are more likely to succeed and matriculate through their entire K-12 experience when they have access to high quality early learning programming. Research also shows that early childhood experiences have lifelong impacts. Vocabulary size at 24 months predicts academic and behavioral performance in kindergarten. Kindergarten skills go on to predict later reading and math achievement, as well as life outcomes such as earnings at age 27, home ownership, and retirement savings. Students who start behind generally stay behind and if they are going to be college and career ready by the time they graduate, it’s critical that we start early to ensure the gaps aren’t already there by K.

In taking this step to refer to the ballot the Cigarette Tobacco and Nicotine Tax initiative, you will give the people of Colorado the opportunity to invest in our kids.

Additionally, we know that high quality early learning and care positively impacts our economy. Right now, more than ever, we need to invest in opportunities to ensure that Colorado employers and employees have every opportunity to return to work and jump start our economy.

Simply, this legislation is important for our kids and our workforce.

I urge you to vote “yes.”

Thank you,

Lance Hostetter
 Government Affairs Manager
 Colorado Succeeds