

Senate Business, Labor, & Technology

05/02/2022 01:30 PM

HB22-1350 Regional Talent Development Initiative Grant Prog

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Joe Rice For Lockheed Martin	<p data-bbox="565 506 1446 611">My name is Joe Rice and I am testifying in support of HB1350 on behalf of Lockheed Martin. I also had the honor of serving on the 1330 Task Force that developed the recommendations on which this bill is based.</p> <p data-bbox="565 701 1435 884">Lockheed Martin has just under 11,000 employees in Colorado, mostly in the Boulder, Denver, and Colorado Springs metro areas, and we have suppliers in other areas including Durango and Grand Junction. Lockheed Martin builds things people use every day such as weather satellites, GPS satellites, and communications satellites.</p> <p data-bbox="565 974 1463 1465">Our workforce needs range from technicians with a high school diploma, up to PhD's, including an expanding number of positions that require only an associate's degree. As of this moment, Lockheed Martin has 1095 job openings in Colorado. Most of these jobs require an employee to be onsite, but 115 are remote and over 400 more can be remote at least part of the time. Our needs range across the spectrum. Most are technical, but we also have a great number of openings in non-technical fields as well such as HR, finance, procurement, logistics, and transportation. Our single greatest need is in software and coding, and again, many of these do not require a four-year degree. Over three quarters of these jobs require a security clearance. One reason this bill is necessary is we need to address the security clearance issue. Though clearances are a federal process, we think there are things that can be done and this bill could help.</p> <p data-bbox="565 1556 1463 1892">There are many good workforce development programs, but more needs to be done. This is where partnerships come in... We need to work together to develop new and expand existing programs. There is a gap between the skills we need and the skills many people have. There is also the matter of inspiring students to pursue challenging academic courses that lead to good jobs. For these and many more reasons, the partnerships enabled by this bill are crucial to the future of Colorado's workforce, and therefore, crucial to the economic health of our state and the wellbeing of Colorado's citizens. We urge support for HB1350.</p>

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HB22-1350 Regional Talent Development Initiative Grant Program

Wednesday, May 2 2022

Senate Business, Labor, & Technology | SCR 352

Testimony: Support

Good afternoon Mr. Chair and fellow committee members.

My name is Adam Burg, and I'm the vice president of government affairs at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

I am here today to express our organization's support for HB22-1350.

This bill exemplifies innovation and how we can support businesses and talent development initiatives in Colorado. From finance and banking to our trades and everything in between, we all know that businesses are struggling for skilled workers-

Colorado can only rely on outside talent for so long before our economic competitiveness suffers. It is something we highlighted in the Denver Metro EDC's most recent *Toward a More Competitive Colorado Report*.

Colorado ranked No. 42 for its public high school graduation rate – an improvement from No. 46 in 2015 but still unacceptably low for a state that prides itself on a well-educated and world-class workforce. Colorado employment fell by 134,000 jobs and the state's rank for employment growth fell from No. 6 in 2019 to No. 17 in 2020.

Despite the current number of unemployed people in our state, companies are struggling to find and retain the workers needed. Through the years, Colorado has generally ranked in the top-10 on most innovation indicators. The state's rank fell to No. 26 for the most recent two years of R&D expenditures as a percentage of state GDP. Further, according to the Kauffman Indicators of Entrepreneurship index, Colorado ranked 22nd for early-stage entrepreneurship in 2020, down from No. 10 in 2018.

Businesses want skilled talent to support our state's economy and need skilled workers now. To truly address the talent needs of industry, the state must invest in expanding experiential, career connected opportunities and talent development.

Instead of putting a band-aid on the talent problem, Colorado must transition to a more flexible economic model to truly invest in our workforce with intentional strategies like HB22-1350.

We encourage a yes vote on this bill.