



**DISABILITY LAW**  
**COLORADO™**

Protecting the rights of Coloradans of all ages since 1976

455 Sherman Street Suite 130  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
p 303.722.0300 | f 303.722.0720  
Toll Free 1.800.288.1376/Voice/TTY

322 North 8th Street  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501  
p 970.241.6371 | f 970.241.5324  
Toll Free 1.800.531.2105/Voice/TTY

**Position Statement Supporting HB22-1255 to Improve Higher Education  
For Students With A Disability**

March 29, 2022

Disability Law Colorado is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to protect and promote the rights of individuals with disabilities. It serves as the federally mandated and state-designated Protection and Advocacy System (P&A) for people with disabilities as authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals Rights section of the Rehabilitation Act.

HB 22-1255 would help fill data gaps for students with disabilities in higher education programs throughout Colorado, and ultimately help improve outcomes for students with disabilities in our state. Figuring out how to navigate higher education can be a challenging time in any student's life, and this challenge can be majorly compounded for students with disabilities who are trying to seek necessary accommodations and services. Our organization has worked with students across the state to help them request accommodations or pursue the appropriate processes when their accommodations are denied. The ultimate goal of each student that we have worked with is to successfully graduate from their college, university, or technical school and pursue a career, but they have often encountered roadblocks to this goal because of a lack of appropriate supports relating to their disability. Positive postsecondary education and career outcomes have historically been lower for students with disabilities, and HB 22-1255 provides the opportunity to begin to make a necessary change to that in Colorado. Improving outcomes for students with disabilities starts with collecting data on these outcomes on an ongoing basis. Thus, we support the collection of this data and think it is a necessary focus for Colorado's higher education programs.

Further, the committee created by this bill will also help increase positive outcomes for students with disabilities in higher education as their work and recommendations for improvement will help add a layer of oversight and accountability to postsecondary programs throughout Colorado.

For these reasons, we support HB 22-1255.

Sara Pielsticker, Esq.  
Staff Attorney  
Disability Law Colorado  
[spielsticker@disabilitylawco.org](mailto:spielsticker@disabilitylawco.org)  
(303) 722-0300