



April 17, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to express the Colorado Equitable Economic Mobility Initiative (CEEMI)'s strong support for the proposed ordinance changes to the Denver College Affordability Fund (Prosperity Denver Fund, or PDF).

CEEMI works to direct Colorado public funding toward workforce development, job training and postsecondary programs supported by strong evidence. 49 percent of Colorado jobs have "middle skills" requirements, meaning that they require more than a high school diploma, but less than a 4 year degree. But only 15 percent of Colorado adults are "middle skilled," matching this education level. This is a remarkable misalignment, and gives context for why we hear so often from DPS alumni that they want access to a wider range of high quality postsecondary options.

The proposed ordinance changes pending before City Council take several thoughtful and constructive steps to do just that, by allowing PDF funding to support shorter-term postsecondary training programs that are backed by strong evidence of effectiveness. Allowing PDF funds to support DPS graduates pursuing these types of programs will create a strong Denver area market for outcomes-driven workforce development programs, and give many more DPS graduates access to postsecondary pathways with a strong long-term ROI. We also support other provisions in the ordinance, which will make economic mobility and postsecondary education in Denver more inclusive, and available to a wider range of learners in our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

With appreciation,

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