



TO: Senator R. Bridges (Chair), Senator R. Zenzinger (Vice Chair), Senator B. Kirkmeyer, Senator J. Coleman, Senator B. Gardner, Senator C. Hanson, and Senator L. Liston

April 22, 2023

Re: SB23-287 Public School Finance

STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

My name is Dr. Kathy Wilson, and I live in Loveland, CO. As the Co-Director of Action & Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO), I am representing the League regarding **SB23-287 Public School Finance**. LWVCO is a nonpartisan organization that encourages active participation in government. The Colorado League has over 1900 members in 19 local Leagues that span the state. LWVCO strongly urges you to vote in **SUPPORT** of SB23-287 Public School Finance.

Colorado League's position calls for a state finance system that would provide enough funds for public schools to equalize educational opportunity. SB23-287 - as amended by the Senate Education Committee - would go a long way to help all Colorado public schools meet the educational needs of our children by providing the much-needed and long-awaited funds to do so.

Our membership was inspired by Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer's impassioned justification and path forward to end the Budget Stabilization Factor with this bill. LWVCO agrees that it has been too long that Colorado's public schools have not received their full and rightful share of state funds, while this money has been diverted to non-school projects. What was evident during the bill's debate in the Senate Education Committee hearing was that Senator Kirkmeyer's and Senator Zenzinger's particularly relevant experiences on both the Joint Budget Committee and the Legislative Interim Committee on School Finance have given them a deep understanding of how best to finance Colorado's public schools with SB23-287. They are indeed reliable and competent guides through the maze of funding sources that will end the implementation of the Budget Stabilization Factor and its negative consequences.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado strongly urge you to vote **YES** on SB23-287 Public School Finance as amended by the Senate Education Committee.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wilson, Ph.D.
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