

March 10, 2022

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Colorado General Assembly

RE: HB22-1125 Income Tax Rate Reduction - OPPOSE

Dear Chair Kennedy, Vice-Chair Woodrow, and Members of the Committee:

<u>HB22-1125</u> would make permanent any TABOR reduction in the income tax rate. This would be a permanent ratcheting down of income tax rates; each large TABOR refund would reduce income tax rates by .05% below the previous TABOR-induced reduction, permanently.

This may sound like a small reduction, but the first TABOR reduction would permanently reduce General Fund revenue by over \$100 million. The second TABOR reduction would mean over \$200 million was taken from all future budgets. And so on.

Yes, the state is flush with cash this session, but almost all of it is one-time funds, available this budget cycle but not the following years. That one-time cash is useful for one-time expenditures, including building infrastructure, affordable housing, and paying down debt. But improving the supply of child care workers; adding mental health professionals to serve young people; and preventing, fighting, and recovering from wildfires all require spending money based on people's salaries not just this budget cycle, but for years to come. Cutting the income tax rate, permanently, again and again, will reduce, not expand, the funds the state has, now and in the future, for these and other important services. The League of Women Voters supports adequate funding of government programs. This bill makes funding for government programs less adequate, and the League strongly opposes it.

Please vote NO on HB22-1125

Sincerely,

Maud Naroll, Volunteer Lobbyist Legislative Action Committee League of Women Voters of Colorado 1410 Grant Street, Suite B-204 Denver, CO 80203 303-863-0437