

March 7, 2022

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

RE: HB22-1021 Reduce State Income Tax Rate - OPPOSE

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

HB22-1021 would reduce the state income tax rate from 4.55% to 4.4%. It sounds like a small decrease, but will drain over \$400 million from the state General Fund every year. 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 on people's salaries not just this budget cycle, but for years to come. Cutting the income tax rate 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.

In addition, those with the lowest income, who need help the most, but who earn too little to owe much if any tax, will benefit little or not at all from this bill, while those most well off, who need the least help, will reap the most benefit if this bill passes. The League has a position supporting a progressive tax system, taking a larger share of income from those with the most, and the smallest share from those with the least. This bill does the opposite, and again the League strongly opposes it.

Please vote NO on HB22-1021

Sincerely,

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