

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 17-061, Additional Funding Charter School Operating Costs  
Senate Education – February 9, 2017 – Kelly Causey**

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- Mr. Chair and members of the committee. My name is Kelly Causey, and I'm President and CEO of the Colorado Children's Campaign. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in strong support of Senate Bill 61 this afternoon. We are excited that this bill that would level the funding playing field for public school students in Colorado.
- Charter **public** school students deserve the same access to state investments as their peers in other public schools. In many school districts, however, our students receive different resources whether they are in a traditional school or a charter public school.
- Here in Colorado we spend a lot of time talking about inequality between districts, but not enough time talking about inequality between **schools** that are serving kids in the same neighborhoods. This is a fundamental issue of fairness. Tax revenue collected from all taxpayers in a school district should benefit all public school students in that district, and families should not be penalized for sending their child to one type of public school over another.
- This conversation about funding equality is not happening in isolation – we know that making charters whole will require difficult decisions because of budget challenges. As you wrestle with those decisions this session and beyond, please consider the many types of public schools in Colorado and the many types of students who benefit from attending them.
- The Children's Campaign has a long history of supporting public school choice and high-quality charter public school options, and we believe it's time these schools are treated and financed equally by the districts who authorize them. All public school students – charter and non-charter – deserve access to the same opportunities and resources. Please vote yes on Senate Bill 61.