

Written Testimony as Prepared for Delivery in Support of SB 13, Expand Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Act, Senate Education Committee, January 25, 2018 – Erin Miller, Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign

- Thank you, Chairman Hill and members of the committee for having me here today.
- My name is Erin Miller, I’m Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign. This bill is a natural fit with our focus on research-proven strategies that improve outcomes for kids in the areas of both health and education.
- We support this bill because expanding access to school lunches will improve not only kids’ health, but will also help them succeed academically.
- School meals are an important source of calories and nutrition for many Colorado kids – these nutritious meals help to ensure that kids are not hungry during the day and are able to focus at school.
- Children who experience hunger have lower math scores and poorer grades.
- Schools that provide healthy lunches see increased scores on end of year assessments (about 4%), and these increases in scores are 40% larger for students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch.
- This is an important policy to ensure access to hot, nutritious meals to kids in working families and it deserves your support.