

SUPPORT HB 1052 (Reps Rankin & McCluskie)

Empower Local Communities to Collaborate for the Delivery of Early Childhood Services

Background: Colorado is proud to be a local control state, allowing communities to collaborate to provide a variety of services and programs. Title 32 enables the creation of special districts to fund and deliver services for a whole host of purposes including, but not limited to, parks and recreation, health, forest improvement and fire protection. There are more than 2,000 special districts in Colorado today.

What HB 1052 Does: This legislation allows for the creation of special districts for the purpose of delivering early childhood development services.

What HB 1052 Does NOT Do:

- ***Does not create a special district*** – it is up to local leaders to organize a district at the community level. The comprehensive legal process to establish a new district provides ample opportunity for local governments and voters to decide if this is beneficial to their community. (See chart on back for further detail.)
- ***Does not raise taxes*** – it would be up to local voters to decide whether or not to fund a new special district in their community to provide early childhood development services.
- ***Does not change anything about existing or future special districts*** – it does not impact existing special districts, nor does it change anything about the establishment of new special districts for other purposes in the future.

Why This Is Needed: Local communities across the state are interested in working together, across municipal, county and school district boundaries, to offer high quality early childhood development services in a regional way, designed to meet local community needs. This bill is being offered in response to community demand.

Reasons to Vote YES:

- **Empower Local Collaboration:** This legislation provides community leaders the opportunity to work together, across existing political boundaries, to create efficient and effective programs that are tailored to meet local needs.
- **Build on A Successful Colorado Model:** Colorado already allows special districts for a wide variety of purposes. This legislation, which mirrors existing statute, is built upon a model that is proven to work in our state.
- **Enable the Provision of Early Childhood Services:** Early childhood services, which can include early care and education, health and mental health care and developmental support programs for children birth to age 8, can support working parents to stay employed and help young children get a good start in life.

HB 1052 Supporters Include:

- Clayton Early Learning
- Colorado Children's Campaign
- Council for a Strong America
- Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance
- Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley
- Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC)
- Gary Community Investments
- Huerfano-Las Animas Counties Early Childhood Council
- Raise Colorado (*formerly Prenatal, Infant, Toddler Coalition*)
- Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council (*Child Care Resource & Referral for Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin Counties*)
- Rural Communities for Our Kids
- Women's Foundation of Colorado

Process to Establish a Special District:

As you can see from the below chart, once enabled by the state, there is a lengthy local process to ensure community support before a new special district is established.

