

**Written testimony as prepared for delivery in support of HB19-1032 --
Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education [S. Lontine / N. Todd | D. Coram] –
by Erin Miller, Vice President of Health Initiatives, Colorado Children’s Campaign**

January 30, 2019

Health and Insurance Committee

1:30pm

Old State Library

- Chair Buckner and members of the Committee, my name is Erin Miller and I’m Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign.
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1032 and thank you to Representatives Lontine and Todd for bringing this bill forward.
- Comprehensive sexual education is good for kids. There is emerging evidence that comprehensive programs that pay meaningful attention to issues related to gender and power are more likely than programs that do not address these topics to demonstrate significant, positive outcomes in reducing STIs and unintended pregnancies.ⁱ
- The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that “A comprehensive sexuality program provides medically accurate information, recognizes the diversity of values and beliefs represented in the community, and complements and augments the sexuality education children receive from their families, religious and community groups, and health care professionals. Adolescents and most parents agree that school-based programs need to be an important source of formal education for adolescent sexual health.”ⁱⁱ
- This is why the Children’s Campaign, together with our partners at the Colorado chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics support this bill.
- I would also like to, specifically, speak to the second half of amendment L006, lines 17-30. This language will strengthen the oversight entity that makes recommendations about which schools and districts should receive grants under this bill.
- This legislature is in the privileged position of being able to improve this oversight entity and we believe that it is critical that this entity be as diverse and inclusive as possible.
- This language will ensure that a diversity of perspectives is represented on the oversight entity, which is crucial for increasing the diversity of views –

based on academic study and lived experience – that go into deciding who should be awarded the grants.

- This amendment also ensures that people who need financial support to participate on the oversight entity – including, potentially, attendant or dependent care – have that support and are able to fully participate in this process.
- This language will set a new gold standard for ensuring that citizens are able to fully participate in their government.
- And with that, I am happy to take any questions.
- Thank you again. We urge your support of this bill.

ⁱ <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2015/01/23/09/37/sexuality-education-as-part-of-a-comprehensive-health-education-program-in-k-to-12-schools>

ⁱⁱ <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/138/2/e20161348.full.pdf>