Written Testimony as prepared for delivery in support to HB20-1131 – Menstrual Hygiene Products In Schools Program (Rep. Titone & Caraveo/Winter) to the House Education Committee by Samantha Espinoza, Policy Analyst at the Children’s Campaign

February 6, 2020

- Thank you Madame Chair and members of the committee. My name is Sam Espinoza and I currently serve as a Policy Analyst at the Colorado Children’s Campaign.
- I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1131 and am thankful to Representative’s Titone and Caraveo for bringing this bill forward.
- We support this bill because it will remove economic barriers for students accessing necessary health products at school, helps address social stigma around menstrual hygiene and ensures period products are available to ALL students in middle, junior and high school regardless of gender identity.
- Additionally, we support HB 1131 because it was developed in partnership with those closest to the issue, Colorado students.
- Not only is policy stronger when it is informed by the community it seeks to serve and driven forward by those experiencing the problem, its also good for kids.
- Research indicates that young people are surrounded by a variety of opportunities to engage in intentional, productive, and constructive ways, are less likely to engage in risky behavior, and show higher rates of successful transitions into adulthood.
- To explain, the several stakeholder meetings held throughout the bill development process – from inception to policy introduction, were largely attended and convened by young people.
- Lastly, in addition to our gratitude for the providing young people with a positive and meaningful civic engagement opportunity, we wanted to appreciate the sponsors for the thoughtful language to assist the Colorado Department of Health and Environment in disseminating grant funds equitably – namely prioritizing schools that have some of the greatest needs.
- HB 1131 would provide more students access to feminine hygiene products, free of cost, begin to address social stigma and with that, we urge your support for this bill.
- Thank you