

*House Finance Committee  
Testimony  
House Bill 23-1091  
Continuation of the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit*

Chair Snyder, Vice Chair Joseph, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for considering my testimony in favor of House Bill 23-1091, Continuation of the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit.

My name is Cathrine Aasen Floyd and I have worked in child care and early education settings in Colorado for more than 25 years. I also hold a PhD in educational leadership and am a Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) Volunteer Leader.

My work experience tells me that investing in children early on is a wise investment and one that not only benefits children, but our entire state. In fact, a report from the Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman [shows that the rate of return](#) on investments in early childhood education can be 13 percent per year, because of improved outcomes in education, health, and economic productivity.

In Colorado, investing in child care is also an investment in our economy. For every dollar we spend on child care, 2.25 dollars is returned to our state's economy and for every job in the early care and education sector, 1.5 jobs are created.

Despite the importance of quality early learning, children and families across our state are missing out on quality early care opportunities. More than 51% of Coloradans live in a child care desert, meaning there are not enough licensed child care spots to meet demand. The child care sector needs continued support. During my career, I have seen firsthand that child care programs, both large and small, need support to pay staff, provide training to employees, and maintain and expand facilities.

The Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit (CCTC) is an innovative way to ensure our communities can offer children and families quality child care options. Furthermore, donations that are incentivized by the CCTC can help child care providers keep rates more affordable for families, train their work force, and help to keep their doors open to families.

Nearly 22,000 donors support child care in Colorado, with 60 million in private financial support for child care programs across the state. This kind of investment builds on public funding for early childhood in our state and helps Colorado provide valuable child care options to families.

The CCTC is a tool to harness this kind of investment and one that I urge you to support with a "yes" vote on House Bill 23-1091, Continuation of the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit.

Colorado has made tremendous investments in young children in recent years. We are moving forward as a state for children, but the needs are still great.

The CCTC is a valuable tool to encourage philanthropic support for critical child care programs. Now is not the time to roll back this support, but to sustain it.

I ask you to help Colorado continue improving early childhood experiences, and supporting families, by voting “yes” on House Bill 23-1091.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Cathrine Aasen Floyd

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Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Jillian Fabricius, Deputy Director with Illuminate Colorado, a statewide nonprofit working to strengthen families, organizations, and communities to prevent child maltreatment. I am submitting written testimony **to ask you for a yes vote on HB23-1091 Continuation Of Child Care Contribution Tax Credit (CCTC).**

When families have information and access to available local resources to meet basic needs—especially child care, we strengthen the foundation for families and communities to thrive.

Illuminate supports HB23-1091 for two main reasons:

1. **The CCTC incentivizes individuals to prioritize child care in their individual giving, which can strengthen families' access to child care.** By creating an innovative public-private partnership to invest in critical child care programs, the CCTC incentivizes private donations that supplement and offset the public money needed to ensure these programs continue to operate and support families. This bill promotes investment in families' concrete supports in times of needs, which is one of five crucial research-informed protective factors for preventing child maltreatment<sup>1</sup>. Research has shown that building the five “protective factors” in families has the power to prevent and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. HB23-1091 does just that by incentivizing individuals to invest in child care, a concrete support that addresses a family's needs and helps minimize stress (Concrete Support in Times of Need).
2. **The CCTC provides Illuminate Colorado with a crucial fundraising tool by incentivizing individuals to invest in our mission to strengthen families, organizations, and communities to prevent child maltreatment and to give even more generously than they may otherwise.** We directly experience our donors citing the CCTC as something that motivates them to support our work including our provision of child care through Illuminating Child Care. HB23-1091 will support Illuminate Colorado's work to strengthen Colorado families by continuing the CCTC and further incentivizing individuals to invest in child care.

In closing, when families have access to meet their basic needs—including child care—we strengthen the foundations of families and communities to thrive. **We urge you to support continuation of the CCTC to incentivize individuals to invest in child care by voting 'yes' on HB23-1091.**

Sincerely,  
Jillian Adams Fabricius, Deputy Director  
[jfabricius@illuminatecolorado.org](mailto:jfabricius@illuminatecolorado.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Center for the Study of Social Policy. (n.d.) About Strengthening Families and the protective factors framework. Retrieved From: <https://cssp.org/our-work/projects/protective-factors-framework/>



Finance Committee Members  
House of Representatives, Colorado General Assembly  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80202

February 1, 2023

Dear House Finance Committee Member,

We write today to **urge your support for the bi-partisan House Bill 23-1091**, regarding the continuation of the child care contribution tax credit.

Child care – including early care and education for children under age five and before and after school programs for children in elementary and middle school – is essential to supporting the success of our children and their working parents. Ample research has shown that high quality early care and education programs serving children under age five stimulate critical brain development, preparing children for kindergarten and providing a strong foundation for success in school. Having a safe, supportive place to be before and after school helps ensure our elementary and middle school children can access the academic and social supports they need to realize their full potential. Colorado's businesses benefit from widely available child care programs, as employers rely on available and engaged workforce, including parents. **There is a broad common interest in supporting a strong child care system in Colorado.**

For more than 20 years, Colorado has helped ensure access to and availability of a variety of child care programs benefitting children from birth to age 12 through the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit. This tax credit, which is available to Colorado taxpayers contributing to qualifying organizations, allows a 50% credit up to \$100,000 on charitable gifts. **Nearly 22,000 donors support more than 6,000 qualifying organizations with \$60 million in private financial support across the state each year.** These investments **supplement and reduce the need for public sector funding** for these child care programs and support child care capacity development.

This **effective, public-private partnership approach has a long track record of success** and deserves to be extended for three years, as is proposed in HB 23-1091. Further, we are supportive of the provisions in the legislation to collect data on the



impact of the tax credit, so that we can better evaluate the role that this financing mechanism plays in our overall child care system.

We hope you will join us, the below signed business leaders who are proud members of Council for a Strong America, Colorado, in support of House Bill 23-1091. We urge your YES vote when the bill is presented before the House Finance Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Cody Belzley  
President & CEO  
Common Good Consulting  
*Denver*

Kim Haarberg  
Owner  
ARS Companies  
*Littleton*

Kevin Hougen  
President & CEO  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
*Aurora*

Joe Kiely  
Vice President of Operations  
Ports-to-Plains  
*Limon*

Lynn Myers  
Director of Community Relations  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
*Aurora*

Chris Romer  
President & CEO  
Vail Valley Partnership  
*Edwards*

Mark Sass  
Executive Director  
Teach Plus Colorado  
*Denver*

Sue Sava  
President & CEO  
Public Education & Business Coalition  
*Denver*

Amy Sherman  
President & CEO  
Northwest Douglas County Chamber &  
Economic Development Corporation  
*Highlands Ranch*

Cathy Shull  
Owner  
Sage Strategies  
*Fort Morgan*