

**Senate Education**

**02/26/2025 01:30 PM**

**SB25-119 Measures to Modify CDEC**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Christina Taylor Against themselves	<p>Members of the Senate Education Committee,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns regarding SB 2025-119. While I appreciate that several initial concerns have been addressed, there are still significant issues that could negatively impact families and providers in Larimer County.</p> <p>I serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County (ECCLC), which acts as the Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) for our community. Last year alone, ECCLC supported 151 local providers in participating in UPK and helped 2,230 families navigate the application process. Additionally, we worked with dozens of local partners to address enrollment challenges and ensure the efficient use of taxpayer dollars, facilitating the flow of more than \$16.5 million into our local early childhood system. The proposal to eliminate LCOs from the UPK process is deeply concerning and would create unnecessary disruptions to a system that is still in its early years of implementation.</p> <p>One of the most problematic aspects of SB 2025-119 is the provision allowing providers direct access to the UPK enrollment system, effectively removing the structured matching rounds. This shift would replace the current equitable process with a "first come, first served" model that risks disadvantaging families who may not have the time, resources, or knowledge to navigate an open enrollment system. In Larimer County, we have seen firsthand how the current system ensures families have equitable access to the full range of UPK options available to them, including family child care homes and smaller providers who may not have the administrative capacity to compete for enrollments. Without oversight, there is a significant risk that families will be steered toward certain programs, limiting their choices and potentially placing children in settings that do not best meet their needs.</p> <p>Additionally, removing LCOs does not address the true challenges within UPK—namely, the complexity of the enrollment process and the need for greater administrative streamlining. Instead, this bill would shift burdens onto providers who may already struggle with compliance, enrollment timelines, and onboarding procedures. Families and providers in Larimer County consistently rely on ECCLC for support, as demonstrated by help ticket data showing persistent needs for localized</p>

	<p>assistance. Without LCOs, many of these challenges would go unaddressed, leading to increased confusion and inefficiencies at both the provider and family levels.</p> <p>The role of LCOs extends beyond enrollment; we provide critical community-based support to early childhood providers, ensuring alignment across funding streams, technical assistance, and compliance with state requirements. Rather than dismantling this essential infrastructure, we encourage the state to refine the existing system by improving the user experience on UPK.CO, allowing waivers for districts with the capacity to manage their own enrollment, and investing in additional training and support resources for all stakeholders. These targeted solutions would streamline UPK administration while preserving the local expertise that makes the system work effectively.</p> <p>I urge the committee to consider solutions that enhance, rather than dismantle, the support structures that families and providers rely on. ECCLC is committed to working collaboratively to strengthen UPK and ensure it serves all children effectively. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further.</p> <p>Sincerely, Christina N. Taylor, MPH</p>
<p>Stacy Petty Against Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council</p>	<p>The Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council is strongly opposed to this bill. One of the most fundamental parts of the way Universal Preschool was set up was to have local support to help providers navigate this system. The program continues to improve and streamline processes but local support is necessary to make it successful. Providers have long relied on us to support them with other state initiatives and we have built trusting relationships that help support this work. Additionally the Rules Advisory Committee is comprised of a diverse group of knowledgeable professionals that have early childhood experience and are able to help advise Dr. Lisa Roy regarding proposed rules and their impacts to the Universal Preschool Program. This bill undermines so much of what we have achieved to date. Many providers in our region have expressed not only strong concern about this potential change but also that this change, if passed, would likely mean they choose to no longer participate in the program. All providers rely on regular one-on-one support to help work through day-to-day issues that may arise and the state does not possibly have the bandwidth to deal with these needs in a timely manner. It is imperative that local supports and funding stay in place so we can continue to recruit and retain providers in this program. Thank you.</p> <p>Stacy Petty, Director of the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council</p>

	Serving the LCO region of Pitkin, Garfield, Lake and the Roaring Fork portion of Eagle county
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