

**House Education****03/25/2021 1:30 PM****Testimony with Email - HB21-1104 Professional Educator Licensure Renewal Period**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Represer</b>	<b>Text of Testimony</b>
Benjamin	Waters	For	Stand for Children Colorado	<p>Madame Chairwoman McLachlan, Vice-Chair Young, and esteemed members of the House Education Committee,</p> <p>My name is Benjamin Waters and I'm here today representing Stand for Children, a non-profit advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students receive a high quality, relevant education, especially those whose boundless potential is overlooked and under-tapped because of their skin color, zip code, first language, or disability.</p> <p>Studies suggest that one of the leading reasons teachers leave the profession is ever-increasing administrative paperwork. Between disciplinary paperwork, special education documentation, homework, grading, and professional development and collaboration, teachers are buried under paperwork, on top of the actual job of teaching an average of 121 students per day. Moreover, professional teacher licensure is up every five years, adding to literally hours' worth of paperwork the fees of several hundred dollars. Frankly, it's no wonder that these teachers feel mistrusted and disrespected as the professionals they are.</p> <p>HB21-1104 takes a good step in the right direction by moving this licensure period from every five years to every seven years, saving them time and money, and more importantly, acknowledging them as trusted professionals.</p> <p>Stand for Children Colorado recognizes the incredible tasks that our Colorado teachers do every single day for our kids. They are working hard in truly impossible times, especially given the current COVID-19 conditions; let's take one thing off their already full plates, please support HB21-1104</p> <p>Sincerely, Benjamin Waters, Representing Stand for Children Colorado</p>