

**Testimony for submission to the Public and Behavioral Health and Human Safety
Committee of the Colorado General Assembly**

Re: House Bill 21-1222

Chairman Michaelson Jenet, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share testimony with you in support of House Bill 21-1222: Bill to Increase the Supply of Family Child Care Homes.

I am Jennifer Spires, an educator with 17 years of experience and an advocate with Save the Children Action Network. I am also co-chair of the Early Childhood Summit and a board member for Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children.

Children who receive a quality early education are 20% more likely to graduate from high school than their peers who do not, and, on average, earn 50% more than their peers. Unfortunately, prior to the pandemic 51% of Coloradans lived in child care deserts and could not access care for their children. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this child care crisis, with 10 percent of child-care providers having permanently closed their doors. Now, 44 percent of families with young children are currently without child care plans for 2021.

Now, more than ever, kids need the support, engagement and care that child care offers, and parents need child care support to remain in the workforce or return to work. I am concerned that young children in our state cannot access child care, and I am pleased that you, as committee members, are considering solutions to this crisis and supports for parents.

I believe House Bill 21-1222 is a powerful proposal that can result in the expansion of child care in our state by removing barriers to opening and operating Family Child Care Homes (FCCHs). I urge you to support House Bill 21-1222.

Family Child Care Homes are a treasured part of the lives of children and families, and a crucial piece of Colorado's economic infrastructure. Yet it can be difficult and costly to open an in-home child care facility in Colorado because of duplicative and costly regulations. HB 21-1222 helps to remove these barriers to opening and operating FCCHs without compromising safety and health.

My two young nieces attend a FCCH, and love it. Personally, and professionally, I know many parents who choose in-home day cares because of the small group size, convenience, home environment and flexible schedules they can offer. In fact, historically, a majority of infants and toddlers in licensed care in our state have been in FCCHs.

Accessible, quality, child care is a vital support to kids and families in Colorado. It is urgent that we create solutions, not barriers, to child care. As such, I ask that you support House Bill 21-122 to help foster a sensible and safe expansion of FCCHs in our state.

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Chairman Michaelson Jenet, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 21-1222: Bill to Increase the Supply of Family Child Care Homes.

I am Becky Edwards from Centennial, Colorado. I am an early childhood specialist with Healthy Childcare Colorado, and I hold a MA in education. I am also a Volunteer Leader with Save the Children Action Network.

Personally, and professionally, I am committed to advancing policy that helps children in our state access quality early learning, and maintain their physical and social-emotional well-being. Helping to establish and expand quality child care in Colorado is a path to meeting these goals for children.

A child's brain is 90% developed before the first day of kindergarten, and a child's vocabulary at age three can predict third grade reading levels, a strong indicator of lifelong success. Quality child care enhances early learning for kids, yet Colorado children cannot access child care at alarmingly high rates. Currently, 44 percent of Colorado families have no child care plans for 2021, in large part because of child care scarcity. Family Childcare Homes (FCCHs) in particular, are in decline.

Senate Bill 19-063's Infant and Family Child Care Action Plan identified that a major contributing factor to the shortage of FCCHs is conflicting regulation between state licensing allowances and local regulations, including zoning, fire, life safety, and building codes. These conflicting and duplicative regulations are burdensome and can be costly for FCCH providers, contributing to FCCH closures or hindering the establishment of FCCHs in the first place. This leaves families and children with too few child care options, particularly for babies and infants.

An important solution to this problem is House Bill 21-1222 which will reduce unnecessary barriers to opening and operating FCCHs while maintain current health and safety oversight via the Office of Early Childhood.

As Colorado emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must build back better for kids. Supporting House Bill 21-1222 is one way to enhances early learning options for young children in our state and ensure they have a brighter future.

I ask that you support House Bill 21-1222 to increase the supply of Family Childcare Homes.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

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Committee of the Colorado General Assembly**

Re: House Bill 21-1222

Chairman Michaelson Jenet, Vice Chair Sirota, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share testimony with you in support of House Bill 21-1222: Bill to Increase the Supply of Family Child Care Homes.

I am Kelly Fugate, an early learning professional and owner and founder of Sister Sister Family Childcare. Sister Sister Family Childcare is a Colorado Shines five-star rated, childcare center serving eleven children ranging from two-months to five years in age. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, my family childcare facility has remained open serving essential workers in our community, including health care workers. Sister Sister Family Childcare also offers Head Start and Early Head Start spots for qualifying children as well as military subsidy (Childcare Aware) and state subsidy (CCCAP).

Family Child Care Homes (FCCHS) are a vital support to children and to working families in Colorado. We urgently need more FCCH, in my community--El Paso County--and across the state. I believe House Bill 21-1222 can help remove barriers to opening and operating in-home childcare facilities.

Duplicative and costly regulations are prohibiting too many people from establishing FCCHs just when children, parents, and our state, most need childcare. I receive six to ten calls a week from families seeking care for their infants and toddlers. I have to turn them away. In fact, quality childcare is so difficult to find that I have worked with parents who drive up to twenty miles, each way, to bring their child to my facility.

I estimate that one third of childcare facilities will close in my community, in part due to challenges, and increased costs, created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the state, ten percent of childcare providers have already closed their businesses, and 44 percent of families with young children are without childcare plans for 2021.

I have established a FCCH that is top quality—securing the highest possible rating by Colorado’s early learning quality-rating system (Colorado Shines). Families want quality care for their children and overwhelming numbers of families want in-home childcare for their infants and toddlers.

House Bill 21-1222 offers no cost solutions to Colorado’s childcare crisis. I believe that by reducing duplicative and costly local regulations to opening and operating FCCHs, lawmakers can help meet the needs of children and families in our state without compromising quality and safety. The Office of Early Childhood already regulates childcare operations to ensure that FCCHs meet safety, health, and quality standards.

That regulation would remain in place, even if local regulations were altered or removed.

I am proud of the care Sister Sister Family Childcare offers children in my community, and I want to see more businesses, like mine, open across the state. FCCs help give children the best start in life and are vital to ensuring parents can return to work and help Colorado's economy thrive.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and of House Bill 21-1222. I urge you to vote yes on HB 21-1222 to increase the supply of Family Childcare Homes.

Sincerely,

Kelly Fugate

**Testimony for submission to the Public and Behavioral Health and Human Safety
Committee of the Colorado General Assembly**

Re: House Bill 21-1222

Chairman Michaelson Jenet, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 21-1222: Bill to Increase the Supply of Family Child Care Homes.

I am Susan Hill and I live in Centennial, Colorado. I am an instructor of early childhood education at Arapahoe Community College and a consultant on early childhood education and special needs with more than thirty years of experience.

I am also an advocate with Save the Children Action Network.

I am concerned about the child care crisis in Colorado, particularly the lack of care options for infants and toddlers. I welcome the chance to show support for House Bill 21-1222 because I believe it will increase the supply of child care in Colorado, especially for our state's babies and toddlers.

As a consultant, I am well aware that many centers do not offer infant and/or toddler care. Those centers that do have long waiting lists. Parents call as soon as they are aware of being pregnant to get on a waiting list with the hope that they will have a spot when their baby is 6 weeks to 2 months old. That is almost a year in advance!

Family child care homes offer infant and toddler care. Family child care homes are often preferred by parents of infants for many reasons. Among them are a more personal connection with the caregiver, lower ratios and the homey, family environment.

The crisis we are facing is widespread and it is detrimental to young children. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic 51% of Coloradans lived in child care deserts. Since the pandemic hit, 10% of child care centers have closed, intensifying the scarcity of child care in our state.

Too many children are not receiving consistent, quality child care. In many cases, these kids are missing the chance to develop strong social emotional skills, establish friendships, and secure foundational skills that will result in long-term academic success.

Recent state-wide investments in early learning, such as universal preschool, are unequivocal wins for Colorado's children, yet this victory has the potential to weaken already fragile systems for infants and toddlers. Colorado must act to ensure that by providing education to four-year olds, we do not draw ECE professionals away from infant and toddler care.

One way to help safeguard against this is to support Family Childcare Homes. Colorado parents choose Family Child care Homes (FCCHs) for their children for a variety of reasons, including smaller group sizes, continuity of care, in-home learning environments, accessibility, and flexibility to accommodate nontraditional work schedules. This is especially true for the parents of infants and toddlers. Historically, most of the infants and toddlers in licensed child care are cared for in FCCHs.

FCCHs can, and do, offer quality care. I have seen this throughout my career—young children in FCCHs are part of rich and personalized early learning programs in which parents and caretakers maintain communication around the needs of children in care.

I ask that you support House Bill 21-1222 to help increase the supply of family childcare homes in Colorado and, thereby, to help meet the needs of young children in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

March 30, 2021

Dear Members of the Public and Behavioral Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Rachael Balerio. I live in Montrose, Colorado. I am a Licensed Family Child Care Home Provider. I am testifying today in support of House Bill 1222 Regulations of Family Child Care Homes.

I am testifying today because I have personally experienced the burdensome costs and regulations in regards to zoning. About five years ago, I began the process of opening a child care business in my home in Parachute, Colorado. Before my Child Care License would be approved, I had to apply for a Special Use Permit with the Town of Parachute. I went through an arduous, three month process that included multiple meetings with town staff, a lengthy application, a \$258 application fee, \$77 to run a notice of meeting in a local paper, \$131 to send certified letters to all of the homeowners in my surrounding area, and I attended two town meetings regarding the topic. I started this process in May of 2016 and was not able to open my child care until August of 2016.

I am now a Family Child Care Home Provider in Montrose, Colorado and will soon be eligible for an Experienced License that will increase my capacity. In order to expand my license and capacity, I will once again have to go through a rigorous zoning process. I foresee that it will be nearly impossible for me to run my business and take on the expensive, time consuming process again. Unfortunately, this will result in fewer child care slots in our community.

Please consider supporting this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Rachael Balerio
2061 Natalia Way
Montrose, CO 81401



COUNCIL FOR A
STRONG AMERICA
COLORADO

March 30, 2021

Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: HB 21-1222

Dear Members of the House Public Health Care & Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of HB 21-1222. This bill would ensure that Coloradans have the ability to provide licensed child care in their homes, serving a great need in our state. As a member of Mission: Readiness, I have also added my name to a letter which was sent to each of you earlier this week.

The retired admirals and generals of Mission: Readiness know that investments in a child's earliest years are proven to be the most important and can get kids on a path to academic success. Giving Colorado's kids the right start in life will be imperative should they want a career in military service.

A research report released by Council for a Strong America last year provides evidence that the lack of child care in Colorado, specifically for infants and toddlers, results in an annual impact of \$2.2 billion to our state's economy. The report demonstrates that our pre-COVID child care system did not meet the needs of enough Colorado children, families, or our economy. We now know that many child care providers have closed their doors in the wake of this pandemic and many of those will not be able to reopen. This is especially true for providers in rural and remote areas of our state.

We also know that availability of child care for infants and toddlers has dramatically declined over the last several years, largely due to a decline in family child care homes. One of the challenges that is affecting the supply of licensed family child care homes can be found in the burdensome local regulations that overlay already stringent requirements placed on child care programs through licensing.

If we fix this problem, more families will be able to welcome children into their homes, which is especially important as parents are returning to the workplace. This action would be a great step forward in addressing the child care crisis in Colorado, and a necessary step toward our economic recovery.

I respectfully urge your support for HB 21-1222.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Dylewski".

Major General Gary Dylewski (Ret.) USAF



March 30, 2021

Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: HB 21-1222

Dear Members of the House Public and Behavioral Health & Human Services Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Colorado Business Roundtable, a public policy organization of executives from some of the state's largest employers, urging your support of HB 21-1222.

Last year, in partnership with the Common Sense Institute, we convened a diverse group of leaders in our state to develop a plan called The Road to Recovery, which identified key policy areas that are essential to Colorado's economic recovery. One of the biggest obstacles identified in the plan is child care. Although Colorado experienced a significant shortage of licensed child care before COVID-19 hit our state, the pandemic has highlighted just how critical child care is to working parents and their employers.

This week, the business leaders of ReadyNation, a nonprofit, bipartisan network of business leaders from Colorado and across the country, released a research report on home-based child care in our state. The report addresses the sharp decline Colorado has seen in the number of licensed family child care homes. Unfortunately, that number has been further reduced as a result of the pandemic.

We often think of child care as happening in centers, yet a growing number of families are choosing family child care homes. A recent study in Colorado tells us that family child care is preferred by more families than are using it, which points to our lack of supply.

HB 21-1222 would reduce unnecessary barriers in order to increase the supply of licensed care by treating family child care homes as residences instead of commercial facilities for purposes of zoning, building, and fire safety codes. By making this change, more families will be able to open their homes to a small number of children, which is especially important at a time when the lack of supply is affecting the ability for working parents to afford childcare and return fully to the workforce.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Debbie Brown
President / Colorado Business Roundtable
720 280-0511 / dbrown@cobrt.com



HB 21-1222: Increase the Supply of Family Child Care Homes
Reps. Valdez A. & Van Winkle / Sens. Smallwood & Winter
March 30, 2020

Madame Chair and Members of the House Public Health & Behavioral Health & Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 21-1222. My name is Molly Yost, and I serve as Mile High United Way's Director of Early Childhood Initiatives. Mile High United Way (MHUW) has the distinct honor of being the very first United Way in the world. Over 133 years ago in Denver, Frances Wisebart Jacobs led four men around an idea to collect funds for local charities, to coordinate relief services, to counsel and refer clients to agencies, and to make emergency assistance grants for cases that could not be referred. That year, they raised \$21,700 for this greater good, and created the worldwide United Way movement. What began as one woman's drive to help people grew quickly into an organization committed to uniting a community to create better opportunities for all. Today, MHUW continues to unite the full force of the community to fight for the education, health, and financial stability of everyone in Metro Denver. Our agenda is the community's agenda. And that starts with supporting our youngest learners, their families, and the economy through providing access to high-quality early childhood education. **Existing supply gaps are being exacerbated by the COVID-19, and we must take action to reverse precipitous decline of family child care homes in Colorado. Between 2002 and 2018, Colorado has lost more than 11,600 licensed slots in family child care homes.**

We experience the impact of this supply gap at the neighborhood-level; in Metro-Denver's most under-resourced communities. Through MHUW's United for Families effort, we are committed to investing \$25M to increase access to early learning opportunities, starting in Denver's Globeville and Elyria-Swansea neighborhoods – a child care desert. **There are no licensed family child care homes in these neighborhoods despite almost 900 children under age 6 residing in the 80216 zip code alone.** In communities across the state, this is often preferred option for families due to smaller group sizes, home learning environment, and more flexibility in accommodating non-traditional work schedules. **We see first-hand how burdensome regulations and related expenses deter and prevent individuals from pursuing a career in early childhood education and offering licensed child care in their own homes.**

Our community-based efforts are bolstered by the comprehensive stakeholder engagement and related research as a result of SB19-063. We were proud partners of that robust effort and are excited that legislation has been introduced to address these challenges. **We firmly believe that the alignment of conflicting regulations between state licensing and local authorities (including fire, zoning, and building codes) and the categorization of homes as residences for regulatory purposes is a strong step in remedying this unfortunate trend at a time when our economic recovery hinges on child care.** We are optimistic that historically under-resourced communities like Globeville and Elyria-Swansea, and all Colorado communities and families, will benefit from these changes.

Thank you for your consideration and we strongly urge a "yes" vote on HB21-1222.

Sincerely,

Molly Yost
Director of Early Childhood Initiatives
Mile High United Way



Madame Chair and Members of the Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services Committee,

My name is Jordan Smith, Strategic Initiatives Manager at Illuminate Colorado. Illuminate is a statewide nonprofit working to strengthen families, organizations, and communities to prevent child maltreatment. Illuminate serves as the Colorado Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America and is also a member of Colorado's Early Childhood Summit. I am providing written testimony **on behalf of Illuminate Colorado in support of House Bill 1222**. Quality child care is a necessity for Colorado's economy and working families with young children, yet the number of licensed child care facilities have declined over the last decade.

Child Care Access and Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention

HB21-1222 will support Family Child Care Homes and begin to address the shortage of licensed child care slots, ultimately contributing to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The Center for the Study of Social Policy demonstrates that certain characteristics make positive outcomes more likely for young children and their families thus reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment. As outlined through the [Protective Factors Framework](#), a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, access to child care supports parental resilience, concrete support in times of need, and social and emotional competence of children.

High-quality child care reduces parental stress and isolation. [Prevent Child Abuse America outlines](#) that if parents cannot find or afford adequate child care, they may be forced to leave their children alone or with caregivers who do not have the capacity to provide safe and appropriate supervision, leaving them vulnerable to endangerment, neglect, or abuse. Furthermore, trained child care workers can play a crucial role in identifying and reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

Child Care Access and Child Fatality Prevention

In 2019, the Colorado Child Fatality Review Team and the Colorado Child Fatality Prevention System completed a methodical, joint review of the 79 fatal incidents from 2013 to 2017 that met the review criteria for both systems. They then identified trends associated with the circumstances surrounding these deaths, finding that **lack of access to stable, quality, and affordable child care was a contributing factor in 19% of the 62 deaths among infants and children under 5 years old**.

Therefore, one of the recommendations out of the [2020 Colorado Child Fatality Prevention System Legislative report](#) is to support policies that ensure access to stable, quality, and affordable child care, especially for infants and young children. The report specifically recommends supporting the implementation of Senate Bill 19-063 and components of [The Infant and Family Child Care Action Plan](#), including "resolving differences among state and local regulatory agencies to remove administrative and financial burdens and assure safe environments for children in family child care homes." HB21-1222 will bring this recommendation to fruition.

Please join Illuminate Colorado in our support of HB21-1222 by voting yes. I am available to answer any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,

Jordan Smith
Strategic Initiatives Manager, Illuminate Colorado
jsmith@illuminatecolorado.org



HB 21-1222: Increase the Supply of Family Child Care Homes
Reps. Valdez A. & Van Winkle / Sens. Smallwood & Winter
March 30, 2020

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Our community-based efforts are bolstered by the comprehensive stakeholder engagement and related research as a result of SB19-063. We were proud partners of that robust effort and are excited that legislation has been introduced to address these challenges. **We firmly believe that the alignment of conflicting regulations between state licensing and local authorities (including fire, zoning, and building codes) and the categorization of homes as residences for regulatory purposes is a strong step in remedying this unfortunate trend at a time when our economic recovery hinges on child care.** We are optimistic that historically under-resourced communities like Globeville and Elyria-Swansea, and all Colorado communities and families, will benefit from these changes.

Thank you for your consideration and we strongly urge a "yes" vote on HB21-1222.

Sincerely,

Molly Yost
Director of Early Childhood Initiatives
Mile High United Way

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

03/30/2021 1:30 PM

Witness List - HB21-1222 Regulation Of Family Child Care Homes

Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Testifying	Registered
Mrs.	Meghan	Dollar	Amend	Colorado Municipal League	In Person	3/30/2021 12:41
Mrs.	Christina	Walker	For	Clayton Early Learning and HB 1222 Coalition	In Person	3/30/2021 12:48
Mrs.	Amber	Bilby	For	Colorado Association of Family Child Care	Remotely	3/24/2021 10:08
Mrs.	Tammy	Hayashi	For	Self	Remotely	3/25/2021 22:25
Ms	Jeanne	McQueeney	For	Self	Remotely	3/26/2021 11:03
Mr.	Jerry	Stricker	Against	Fire Marshals Association of Colorado	Remotely	3/29/2021 15:43
Mrs.	Stacey	Carpenter	For	Self	Remotely	3/29/2021 15:54
Mrs.	Steven	Parker	Amend	Arvada Fire Protection District	Remotely	3/29/2021 18:15
Mrs.	Nazia	Hasan	For	Bell Policy Center	Remotely	3/29/2021 8:28
	Nicole	Riehl	For	Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC)	Remotely	3/29/2021 10:09
	Carin	Rosa	Questions Only	Office of Early Childhood	Remotely	3/29/2021 10:28
	Elizabeth	Szymanski	For	MyVillage LLC	Remotely	3/29/2021 22:35
Mr.	Alexander	Winter	For	Self	Remotely	3/29/2021 11:15
	Lisa	Jansen Thompson	For	the Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County	Submitted text	3/25/2021 8:39
	Kelly	Pointer	For	Energize Colorado	Submitted text	3/29/2021 10:18
Ms.	Tseganesh	Tesega	For	Self	Submitted text	3/30/2021 9:10
Ms.	Susan	Hill	For	Save the Children Action Network	Uploaded file	3/29/2021 13:03
Mrs	Becky	Edwards	For	Save the Children Action Network	Uploaded file	3/29/2021 9:19
Mrs.	Rachael	Balerio	For	Self	Uploaded file	3/29/2021 21:50
Ms.	Kelly	Fugate	For	Save the Children Action Network	Uploaded file	3/29/2021 12:50
Maj. General (Retired)	Gary	Dylewski	For	Mission: Readiness	Uploaded file	3/30/2021 8:42
Ms.	Debbie	Brown	For	Colorado Business Roundtable	Uploaded file	3/30/2021 8:54
	Jordan	Smith	For	Illuminate Colorado	Uploaded file	3/30/2021 12:07
	Molly	Yost	For	Mile High United Way	Uploaded file	3/30/2021 12:54

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

03/30/2021 1:30 PM

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Mr.	Alexander	Winter	For	Self	Remotely		3/29/2021 11:15
	Lisa	Jansen Thompson	For	the Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County	Submitted text	<p>The Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County (ECPAC) asks for your support of HB21-1222 Family Child Care as Residences. This bill follows one of the recommendations of the SB19-063 study which was completed to help address the shortage of family child care homes (FCC) in CO. As noted in the report, currently, inconsistent and overly burdensome regulations make it very difficult for FCCs to provide care. Over the last several years Colorado has lost almost 12,000 licensed slots in FCCs, and in Adams County we have experienced a 35% decrease. Many local regulations are far more restrictive than state child care licensing requirements which have shown to be effective at keeping kids safe. Regulations that conflict with state licensing are leading to reduced number of children that can attend licensed child care, increased costs due to expensive and duplicative requirements, and sometimes outright prohibitions on family child care. x000D_</p> <p>Family child care homes (FCC) and businesses that provide a vital service to our community and, like any business, need the right regulatory environment to thrive. It is our hope that the regulations that are currently in place for child care are cared for and can serve for kindergarten and FCCs. More than one of their children together - creating both a family experience as well as convener. FCCs allow families to have alleviating barriers to transportation. FCCs are often more affordable than center-based programs. As a result, FCC providers often need to expand their capacity to even make ends meet or they can close their business and find a higher paying job. Finally, FCCs need to be a part of our mixed delivery system for universal preschool and as a result we need to be building capacity, not losing it. x000D_</p> <p>ECPAC worked closely with one Adams County City for two years to reduce only a portion of these barriers - and while we are proud of this progress, several barriers still remain that can be alleviated by this bill. This two year process and remaining barriers have led to several family child care homes having waitlists and an inability to provide these services to families who are desperate to find affordable and high quality care. x000D_</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this bill which is vital to our children, families, and economy.</p>	3/25/2021 8:39
						<p>Honorable Representatives, x000D_</p> <p>I am reaching out to ask for your support of a bipartisan bill that would help address the shortage of family child care homes in our community. HB21-1222. x000D_</p> <p>x000D_</p> <p>Currently, inconsistent and overly burdensome regulations are making it very difficult for family child care homes to provide care. Over the last several years Colorado has lost nearly 12,000 licensed slots in family child care homes, and the loss of child care for working families has only worsened with the pandemic. Many local regulations are far more restrictive than state child care licensing requirements, which have shown to be effective at keeping kids safe. Regulations that conflict with state licensing are leading to reduced number of children that can attend licensed child care, increased costs due to expensive and duplicative requirements, and sometimes outright prohibitions on family child care. x000D_</p> <p>x000D_</p> <p>Family child care homes are small businesses that provide a vital service to our community and, like any business, need the right regulatory environment in order to thrive. x000D_</p> <p>x000D_</p> <p>I represent Energize Colorado; we are a 501(C)(3). Our organization advocates for Colorado's small business community and its long term vibrancy and resilience. Energize Colorado is working specifically with a focus on child care, as we see it of central importance. x000D_</p> <p>x000D_</p> <p>We are asking for your support of House Bill 1222; your consideration is appreciated. x000D_</p> <p>x000D_</p> <p>Thank you, x000D_</p> <p>Kelly Pointer. x000D_</p> <p>Child Care Initiative. x000D_</p> <p>www.EnergizeColorado.com</p>	3/29/2021 10:18
	Kelly	Pointer	For	Energize Colorado	Submitted text		

