

Written Testimony as prepared for delivery in a support position to HB21-1234 – Supplemental Education High Impact Tutoring Programs (Tipper & Bradfield/Moreno & Rankin) to the House Education Committee by Riley Kitts, Government Affairs Director, Colorado Children’s Campaign

April 8, 2021

- Thank you, Madame Chair and members of the committee. My name is Riley Kitts and I work as the Government Affairs Director at the Colorado Children’s Campaign. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1234 and we are thankful to Representatives Tipper and Bradfield for bringing forth this bill, which invests in evidence-based methods to support students to get back on track.
- As Colorado continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and at-home learning continues to some extent, there will be a need to help students complete unfinished learning in the months and even years to come. Research shows that targeted intensive tutoring can help students who are behind catch up to meet high standards at all grade levels, and the evidence is strongest for reading-focused tutoring for students in early grades (particularly grades k-2) and for math-focused tutoring for older students in second through fifth grade, according to research from the University of Virginia and the Annenberg Institute at Brown University.
- The grants to school districts that would be made available through House Bill 1234 are structured to be closely aligned with the features of high dosage tutoring that research show most accelerate learning – for example, having the same tutor work with students over the course of the school year, limiting the number of students working with a tutor to no more than four at a time, and requiring that tutoring programs use high-quality curriculum that is aligned with academic standards.
- We appreciate the grant program’s prioritization of students who are most in need of support, which could include rural schools or schools serving high percentages of students from low-income families.
- This bill will go a long way in helping students across Colorado.
- I appreciate the opportunity to testify on HB1234 and urge a yes vote. I am happy to take any questions. Thank you!