

## Senate Education

04/22/2021 01:30 PM

## SB21-236 Increase Capacity Early Childhood Care &amp; Educ

## Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Kelly Pointer</p> <p>For</p> <p>Energize Colorado</p>	<p>Honorable Representatives,</p> <p>I am reaching out to ask for your support of SB21-236 'Increase Capacity Early Childhood Care &amp; Education'.</p> <p>Child care is an integral part of our community, but providers are struggling. This bill would establish the "Employer-based Child Care Facility Grant Program", the "Early Care and Education Recruitment and Retention Grant and Scholarship Program", the "Child Care Teacher Salary Grant Program", and the "CIRCLE (Community Innovation and Resilience for Care and Learning Equity) Grant Program". These programs would provide critical funding and support.</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.</p> <p>We are asking for your support of this bill, which will be heard Thursday (4/22) at 1:30pm.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kelly Pointer</p> <p>Child Care Initiative</p> <p>kelly.pointer@energizecolorado.com</p> <p>EnergizeColorado.com</p>
<p>TVail Shoultz-McCole</p> <p>For</p>	<p>Chair Zenzinger and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of Senate Bill 21-236.</p>

<p>Save the Children Action Network</p>	<p>I have worked in the early learning field for over 30 years. From teacher/owner/trainer to current college instructor, coach, and advocate with Save the Children Action Network. I have personally experienced the challenges of providing care for children and struggling to make a living wage.</p> <p>In my professional capacity as faculty at a college, I oversee the education and coaching of hundreds of future and current teachers. Unfortunately, most of these people will not receive adequate compensation and benefits once they enter the workforce.</p> <p>I hear stories that break my heart regarding teachers who love their jobs and want to stay but must make the tough choice between caring for other’s children and caring for their own family. Recently, a teacher, after years in the field, left to be a hairstylist because she was going into debt living on her teacher wages. This is the stark reality many teachers face. Colorado can do better!</p> <p>Early Milestones research-reports that approximately 1 out of 3 ECE staff leave their job annually, a rate four times greater than that in K-12 education. Consider 1/3rd of staff at a small business leaving this year, replaced by people with little previous experience and struggling to meet basic needs of home bills, food, transportation, etc. Would that business continue be effective?</p> <p>I ask that as you support SB 21-236 which will establish the “Early Care and Education Recruitment and Retention Grant and Scholarship Program.” This program is an important step toward increasing recruitment and retention of early learning professionals across our state, and thereby improving our early learning system.</p> <p>Colorado kids, families, and our economy need this kind of investment. Please vote yes on SB 21-236.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>T Vail Shoultz-McCole</p>
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<p>Farima Nemat</p> <p>For</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Members of the Senate Education Committee:</p> <p>Please vote "Yes" on Senate Bill 236. This legislation supports the early childhood workforce and will increase access to child care throughout the state.</p> <p>Child care is essential for Colorado’s families, and our economic recovery relies on child care so parents can return to work. We first on the front lines of witnessing the hardship this pandemic had on our families, student and community. Parents were forced to give up quality childcare for fear of cost. Essential workers panicked that they couldn't go to work if we didn't keep our doors open to provide childcare. Teachers continue to show signs of trauma and fear from this pandemic. We accrued additional cost for cleaning, hiring and testing to ensure we kept our doors open. The struggle to provide the same level of care as pre-pandemic is real and we strive to return to normal. We see the social and economical impact this has had on our students and families and at times, we seem to be the only safe haven to absorb the shocks we're enduring as a society.</p> <p>Public investments now can help providers navigate the next few months is essential. I urge you to vote "Yes" on Senate Bill 236. Thank you in advance for your time and attention, Farima Nemat</p>
<p>Linda Schiller</p> <p>For</p> <p>Young Invincibles</p>	<p>Hello Senators, thank you for reading my comment. My name is Linda Schiller and I am a research fellow at Young Invincibles, a research and advocacy organization that is led by young adults. My research project is about the future of women in the workforce, with a focus on how childcare impacts women’s involvement in the workforce.</p> <p>I am urging you to vote yes on SB21-236, because Colorado needs to support families and ensure that they can afford childcare. In my research, I have seen over and over again that when childcare is inaccessible to families, it has a devastating impact on the workforce, and it disproportionately affects women, especially women of color. Addressing the childcare crisis in Colorado is an issue of gender and racial equity.</p> <p>COVID-19 has caused many childcare centers in Colorado to reduce their hours or space, or completely close down. When closures happen, women are much more likely to reduce their working hours or quit their jobs in order to take care of their children, at a rate four to five times greater than the reductions by fathers. Women of color, especially Latinx, Black, and</p>

	<p>Indigenous women, are also disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, being more likely to work as essential workers, or to have lost their jobs.</p> <p>The effects of these workforce disruptions will last longer than the pandemic itself - studies have shown that when women leave the workforce to take care of children, they face greater challenges in returning to work, and are much more likely to experience discrimination. Women and women of color will face a steep uphill battle to recover from the pandemic. If we as Coloradans want to address gender and racial equity in the workforce, we must first address childcare. I urge you to vote YES on SB21-236. Thank you.</p>
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