

Bill Number	First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Text of Testimony
HB20B-1002	Becky	Edwards	For	Self	<p data-bbox="890 188 1860 256">Thank you to the Senate Finance Chairs for the opportunity to provide written testimony, today, in favor of Emergency Relief Programs for the Child Care Sector.</p> <p data-bbox="890 305 1902 373">My name is Becky Edwards, and I am here today as an Early Childhood Specialist and advocate with Save the Children Action Network.</p> <p data-bbox="890 422 1915 646">Since March 2020 my organization, Healthy Child Care Colorado, has been supporting early childhood programs throughout the state navigate this ever changing COVID world. The biggest challenge they face right now is the loss of enrollment as well as staffing issues due to the crisis. For programs to continue they must receive assistance to offset the loss of income and the increasing costs associated with keeping children safe,</p> <p data-bbox="890 695 1871 795">As you know, the Emergency Relief for the Child Care Sector bill will benefit many children in Colorado. That is why I urge you to vote in favor of these vital stimulus funds to help sustain the child care sector.</p> <p data-bbox="890 844 1566 875">Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.</p>

Witness Signup List

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HB20B-1002	Susan	Hill	For	Save the Children Action Network	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on HB20B-1002 Emergency Relief Programs for Child Care Sector.</p> <p>My name is Susan Hill. I am an early childhood consultant for schools in the Denver metro area and an early childhood instructor at a community college in Arapahoe County. I am a board member for a preschool and the grandmother of an 8 year old who benefitted from 4 years of an excellent preschool program. I also am a volunteer advocate for SCAN (Save the Children Advocacy Network) and am passionate about being a voice for children and their families.</p> <p>Our childcare sector is in a critical situation as a result of COVID-19. In the 40 years that I have worked in the childcare community, I have never seen a crisis as serious as the one we are facing now. Not one of the 7 schools I consult with are running at enrollment capacity. All are facing serious financial difficulties due to low enrollment and increased spending on the necessary cleaning and disinfecting supplies as well as additional staff to meet safety guidelines. Several are in danger of closing their doors which will displace children and deprive them of a quality preschool experience which we know makes a positive difference in their lives.</p> <p>In my college classes, I hear from students about the difficulties faced by their centers. Programs are short staffed and have serious fiscal problems. Several of my students have been furloughed during the semester and are not hopeful that their center will be financially able to hire staff back. Staffing is at a bare bones minimum which negatively affects quality programming for children. Parents who are teachers are financially strapped and unable to provide basic needs for their families. Center directors are constantly worried about having to lay off staff and about having the money to meet safety guidelines on PPE, cleaning, and sanitizing.</p> <p>This is an unprecedented crisis in Colorado, and I am asking that you support the Emergency Relief Programs for Child Care Sector bill. Childcare is the backbone of our Colorado workforce. Parents can not work if their child does not have care. By supporting this bill, you are not only supporting the childcare work force, but you are also supporting every parent who works and needs childcare and every one</p>

Witness Signup List

SB20B-005 Cory Gaines For Self

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Cory and I am a resident of Sterling Colorado.

I am writing today about SB20B-005.

I will be completely frank with you and say that I have (and continue to) strongly disagree with the policy approach that Governor Polis has taken since he first declared a state of emergency for COVID.

I do not wish to spend my time litigating his response however, because I want to focus on something that I hope we can all agree on.

I want our government to run according to the will of the people. I want our legislature, the body most closely tied to the will of the people, to run as intended: to be the main source of policy and law.

I want our citizens (all our citizens regardless of party) to have a chance to participate in the choosing or risk vs. reward for how we handle COVID and for how we handle future emergencies.

I do not believe we have that under our current state of affairs. I do not believe the emergency declarations law that is currently being used protects the prerogative of the legislature to create law and I do not believe it protects the right of the people to decide for themselves and have a voice in their government.

I believe Senator Sonnenberg's bill to be a reasonable step back toward the Assembly and the people having more of a voice.