

**STATE OF COLORADO**  
Department of State

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April 18, 2019

The Honorable Chris Kennedy  
Chairman  
House State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee  
200 E. Colfax Ave  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to express my support for SB19-229, Campaign Contributions Dependent Care Expenses. I would like to thank Representative Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, Representative Kyle Mullica, Senator Faith Winter, and Senator Mike Foote for carrying this important bill.

I tell my personal story often because I don't come from a place where a lot of people end up in statewide office. I grew up working-class in Estes Park. My mom worked two jobs and I started working the summer after 7<sup>th</sup> grade to try to help out. My story, and my family's story, is not unique. But it is unique in the halls of government.

The truth is, there are many barriers to running for office. One of those barriers is the cost of childcare. In order to be able to meet the demands of running for office, parents may need help caring for their children. And, it's worth noting that childcare expenses disproportionately affect women. We need diverse leadership, and when women and working-class people are at the table, it increases the likelihood that laws that empower women and working-class families will pass.

This bill allows for candidates to use campaign funds to pay for child care. This will give more working-class and middle-class parents the opportunity to run for office. These expenditures will be transparent and disclosed. This bill is one way we can help more people – and more moms and dads – choose public service as a career path.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Jena Griswold  
Colorado Secretary of State

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