

- Thank you Madame Chair. My name is Sue Renner, and I serve as a co-chair of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, or the ECLC.
- I am here to testify in support of SB25-177, and my two fellow co-chairs, Happy Haynes and Michael Cooke, are also available online for questions.
- The ECLC is Colorado's federally recognized and required state advisory council on early childhood.
- Since 2010, the Commission has worked in partnership with our statewide early childhood community to ensure successful outcomes for young children and their families by advancing the alignment, coordination, and efficiency of early childhood programs and services across the state.
- The ECLC is crucial in ensuring that public and private entities at every level are coordinated in the efforts to increase access, quality, and equity of early childhood and family support services.
- The ECLC is made up of a diverse set of 21 members, representing six state agencies, parents, school district leaders, preschool and child care providers, counties, early childhood councils, and public and private organizations that support children and families.
- The Commission also has several sub-committees and working groups that focus on specific programs, grants, or sectors, including home visiting, early childhood mental health, and early educator investments.
- Our work is currently guided by the ECLC 10-Year-Strategic Plan which was developed in 2023; this strategic plan is focused on three outcomes: administering a comprehensive early childhood system, recruiting and retaining and equitably compensating an early childhood workforce, and ensuring that the early childhood system has the data needed to make evidence-based decisions and the funding resources to put best practices into place.
- We have also recently refreshed the Early Childhood Colorado Framework, which serves as a guiding vision for early childhood partners throughout the state.
- The Commission encourages and supports partner agencies, organizations, and community partners to work in a collaborative and coordinated way to achieve the state's early childhood vision and shared goals.
- We are grateful to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood and the other Department partners for their support of the ECLC and look forward to continuing to work with them on this interagency effort.
- Thank you for your time and I, along with my other co-chairs, are happy to answer questions.