

Senate Education

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HB24-1320 Educator Safety Task Force

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Dawn Fritz For Colorado Parent Teacher Association</p>	<p>Colorado PTA supports House Bill 1320.</p> <p>A founding principle of PTA is to promote the safety and well-being of all children and youth. School safety is a critical priority for all parents, educators, students, and community members, and it cannot be taken for granted. Students and educators have a right to attend schools that are safe and conducive to learning and achievement We recognize that school safety is a multi-faceted issue and all efforts to address school safety must involve all stakeholders and consider a variety of factors including adequate funding and resources. Convening this task force will do just that.</p> <p>PTA also believes that a strong, effective system of free public education for all children is essential to our democratic system of government, and we believe our educators deserve the utmost respect and support. For many years one of PTA’s highest priorities has been to increase resources to retain and recruit teachers and student support professionals. If our educators do not feel safe and supported—they will not want to work in our schools. This task force is a great step toward increasing their safety.</p> <p>Another high priority for Colorado PTA is to promote policies and practices that dismantle the “school-to-prison pipeline.” Thus, we appreciate this thoughtful approach, and that the make-up of this task force is well rounded, including representatives for students and families and a representative for students with disabilities.</p> <p>Our educators deserve to be safe in our schools and the Educator Safety Task Force recommendations that will result from House Bill 24-1320 have the potential to increase the safety of our educators and everyone else in our schools.</p>

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