

## HB24-1285 FACT SHEET

# STUDENT WEIGHT-BASED BULLYING PREVENTION

Representatives Bradfield and Hamrick, Senator Marchman



## THE ISSUE

For many Colorado students, bullying based upon weight is a daily occurrence. Schools often overlook the impact that weight-based bullying has on their students. **This can heavily effect a student's schoolwork and education.**

-Weight-based bullying is linked to loneliness, low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, and even suicidal thoughts and actions.

-Around the nation, 43% of students of all high school students have reported being bullied for their weight, and 90% of students have reported witnessing another student being bullied about their size.

-Students who were bullied for their weight are more likely to develop serious illnesses as adults, develop chronic habits of drug and alcohol use, and are five times more likely to develop eating disorders.

## THE SOLUTION

Current Colorado bullying laws **do not** include body size as a protected class.

HB24-1285 amends the current law to allow schools to determine consequences in response to bullying based upon "a student's weight, height, and body-size."

## HB24-1285 IS

### SIMPLE.

- Adds body-size to Colorado bullying laws
- Gives schools actions to take against bullying based on weight

## THE BENEFITS

1. Includes body size as a protected class under Colorado bullying statutes.

With the passage of this bill, Colorado would be the fourth state to add body-size to their bullying statutes. Statistics show a positive impact on students' mental health in other states with this law.

2. Schools determine consequences for weight-based bullying.

Colorado Statute 22-23-109.1 lays out modes of discipline that schools may take, up to their discretion. This bill will not take away any power from the schools, and will keep the discipline choice in their hands.