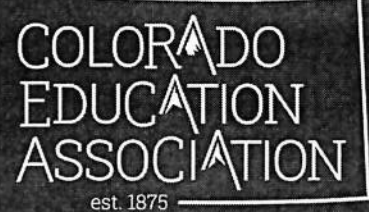


# CEA calls on legislators to vote YES on HB24-1320 to invest in the safety of our public educators



## COLORADO STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS ARE INCREASINGLY AT-RISK IN SCHOOL AND AT THEIR WORKSITES.

This hampers effective instruction, stokes fear, and is driving a historic educator shortage. Legislation is needed to examine this worsening issue and to ensure that any solution is consensus-driven, grounded in evidence and the Colorado context, and proactively deescalates unsafe situations while avoiding exacerbating the school-to-prison pipeline or sticking educators with unfunded mandates.

## HB24-1320 CREATES A TASK FORCE TO:

- Study the impact of state policy, staff shortages, and resource inequalities on the safety of public school staff.
- Develop a set of recommendations that avoids contributing to the school-to-prison pipeline.

## WHY IT'S NECESSARY:

- Nearly a third (32%) of CEA members noted in a recent survey that they had experienced physical abuse by a student within two years.<sup>1</sup>
- This lack of safety is driving an exodus of public school staff from their jobs. CDE reported in the 2022-23 school year that 15% of all teaching and 20% of all school support professionals were left unfilled?<sup>2</sup>
- CEA's 2023-24 State of Education survey found that nearly 58% of educators were considering leaving the profession in the near future.<sup>3</sup>

## WHY A TASK FORCE:

- Research evidence is mixed on the effectiveness of available policy options to increase public school staff safety.<sup>4</sup>
- Swift action is unwise to avoid inequitable unintended consequences; for example, many common interventions are shown to exacerbate the school-to-prison pipeline.<sup>5</sup>

1 - <https://coloradoea.org/state-of-education> 2 - <https://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoralent/edshortage-surveyresults> 3 - <https://coloradoea.org/state-of-education> 4 - [https://www.aft.org/ae/spring2023/reynolds\\_astor](https://www.aft.org/ae/spring2023/reynolds_astor) 5 - <https://www.educationnext.org/proving-school-to-prison-pipeline-strict-middle-schools-raise-risk-of-adult-arrests>

**Bill Sponsors: Representative Lukens, Representative Velasco, Senator Marchman, and Senator Mullica**  
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