

Mile Burke
Testimony Outline – HB26-1004
Senate Finance Committee
May 5, 2026, 2pm

Good afternoon Senator Kipp, Senator Marchman, and members of the Committee.

- My name is Mike Burke, and I am testifying today as a parent, donor, community member, and Mile High United Way Chief Financial Officer, who has seen firsthand how investments in childcare strengthen families and our economy.
- One powerful example is the childcare center developed by Mile High United Way. This center is helping fill a critical gap in affordable, high-quality childcare in the community, serving working families who otherwise struggle to find safe and reliable care for their little ones.
- The center is more than a facility. It allows parents to stay employed, children to get a strong start in life, and neighborhoods to thrive.
- The Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit played a key role in making this center possible. Because of the CCTC, donors like me were able to give more, and choose to direct our philanthropy specifically toward childcare.
- And because of the CCTC, parents like me were able to have their children in a safe learning environment, just one flight of stairs away from my office.
- The credit also helped unlock private dollars to meet urgent community needs.
- More broadly, the CCTC is one of the most effective tools Colorado has to grow funding for childcare. It encourages larger gifts, attracts new donors, and supports long-term solutions like new centers, upgrades, and workforce stability.
- These investments directly impact affordability for families, helping providers keep costs lower and expand access.
- Without continued support like the CCTC, we risk losing childcare spaces, seeing centers close, and forcing families out of the workforce because care is too expensive or unavailable.
- That's not just a family issue; it's an economic one.
- Childcare is a smart return on investment. It strengthens our workforce, supports employers, and prepares children for future success. And the CCTC spurs private investment alongside public dollars, multiplying impact.
- HB26-1004 protects a proven public-private partnership that's working for Colorado.
- I urge you to support this bill so we can continue expanding affordable childcare, strengthening our economy, and supporting families across our state.
- Thank you.



May 5, 2026

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Christina Walker, and I am the Senior Director of Policy at Healthier Colorado, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing every Coloradan with the opportunity to live a healthy life. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB26-1004.

This bill seeks to reauthorize the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit (CCTC), which is currently set to expire January 1, 2028. The CCTC has been one of Colorado's most effective tools for supporting the child care field and afterschool programs, as it allows individuals to receive a 50% state tax credit when they make donations to child care programs, foster care homes, residential child care facilities, and youth shelters for the unhoused.

Providers have shared that the CCTC helps them raise critical funds for capital expenses, recruitment and retention of teachers/staff, improvements for quality, and maintenance of operations. In tax year 2023, CCTC donations generated \$60 million dollars for these providers, and provided tax relief for 18,000 Coloradans.

Colorado needs a stable, affordable system of child care in every corner of the state to support our local businesses and sustain a thriving economy. By incentivizing investments for child care, we are helping communities across the state keep providers open and parents working. Moreover, an investment in child care is also an investment in our state's future workforce. Research proves time and again that quality child care improves childhood well-being, health, and future educational achievements. Colorado needs a world-class early childhood system of child care providers to nurture the next generation.

Supporting child care is good for kids, parents, employers, and Colorado's economy. I urge your support of HB26-1004.

Thank you,

Christina Walker
Senior Director of Policy
Healthier Colorado