

**Testimony in Support of HB16-1322, Health Coverage Prescription Contraceptives Supply
House Public Health Care and Human Services – April 15, 2016 – Jennifer Corrigan**

- Thank you, Chairwoman Primavera and members of the committee for having me here today.
- My name is Jennifer Corrigan and I am the Director of Government Affairs at the Colorado Children's Campaign. I am here today to represent our organization, and in place of my colleague, Erin Miller, our Vice President of Health Initiatives, who was unable to be here today. I will read our statement, but know that I may need to take any technical questions back to our organization.
- We are supportive of House Bill 1322 because evidence shows that this policy can help prevent unintended pregnancies, and we know that intended pregnancies lead to the best outcomes for kids.
- To be honest, our policy staff was not anticipating that this bill would have as large an impact on unintended pregnancies as evidence suggests. However, as a data-driven organization, we have been convinced of the strength of this policy in reducing unintended pregnancies.
- Data from randomized controlled trials (the gold standard in determining evidence-based programming) as well as cohort studies show that providing access to additional months of contraceptive coverage is associated with increased continuation of use, fewer pregnancies and abortions, and lower costs.
- Furthermore, we know that reducing unintended pregnancies is good for kids and families. It improves the lives of women and families by allowing women to finish their educations, chart their own futures, and become financially secure before starting their families, which eliminates the devastating impacts of poverty on kids.
- Preventing unintended pregnancy can impact two generations of Colorado kids because teens are the most likely group to experience unintended pregnancies – 80% of pregnancies to women under age 19 are unintended. And unintended pregnancy creates a number of additional challenges for teenagers. Nationally, 30% of all teenage girls who drop out of school cite pregnancy and parenthood as key reasons, and research shows that children born to parents who did not graduate from high school are significantly more likely to live in poverty for at least half of their childhoods.
- Largely due to a shortage of support and resources for teen parents and their children, many children of teen parents will not escape this cycle of poverty, only about two-thirds of children born to teen mothers earn a high school diploma, compared to 81% of their peers with older parents.
- Lastly, I would just note that the projected impact on health spending from enacting this proposal is at most minimal. The fiscal notes itself states, "Given that there are many factors affecting insurance premiums, and the fact that purchasing larger supplies can have conflicting impacts on costs... any impact to the cost of state employee health insurance, managed by the Department of Personnel and Administration, is assumed to be minimal."