

**Testimony in Support of SB18-151, Colorado Dept of Edu Bullying Policies Research
Senate Education – February 14, 2018 – Leslie Colwell**

- Good afternoon Mister Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Leslie Colwell, and I'm with the Colorado Children's Campaign, here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 151 because we think this bill will help ensure that our schools have the best tools available to provide our kids with a safe and welcoming environment where they can do their best.
- We appreciate the bill's charge for the Department to study the best evidence-based policies and practices of other states to continuously refresh our own approaches to school bullying.
- I know that we have many best practices here in our own state. I recently learned from a friend whose kids attend school in Adams County that every 8th grader is paired with at least one incoming 6th grader, who receives a call prior to the first day of school. The older student then serves as a resource and mentor throughout the first year of middle school.
- This is just one example of a practice that could be surfaced by devoting CDE staff time to developing a bullying prevention model.
- Please vote yes on Senate Bill 151. Thank you for your time.