

Testimony in Support of SB18-151, Colorado Dept of Edu Bullying Policies Research House Education – March 19, 2018 – Stephanie Perez-Carrillo

- Good afternoon Mister Chair and members of the committee. My name is Stephanie Perez-Carrillo. I work as a policy analyst with the Colorado Children's Campaign, and am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 151. I want to thank the sponsors for bringing forth this bill and I also want to acknowledge Senator Fields, who convened many community experts just before session to think about ways to support our students
- 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.
- We know that 20 percent of high schoolers said that they had been bullied at school in the past 12 months according to data from the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey
- 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.