

**Testimony in Support of HB18-1309, Programs Addressing Educator Shortages  
House Education – April 23, 2018 – Leslie Colwell**

- Hello again, committee members, my name is Leslie Colwell, here today from the Colorado Children’s Campaign to express our support for HB-1309 (**with amendments**).
- We have worked extensively with partners from the Rural Alliance, St. Vrain School District and UCD on some of the amendments you will hear about today and feel strongly that if amended, the bill will provide supports and structures to help address Colorado’s educator shortage challenges.
- We are excited about the potential addition of criteria that would award grants by prioritizing “growing our own” teachers. Research outcomes support the idea that particularly in rural areas, teacher retention is higher for those who return to their home communities, where they may already have networks and familiarity with ways of living.
- We also support amendment language that would create data collection mechanisms to help gauge the effectiveness of the grown your own grant program and the availability of “teacher of record” licenses, and beef up reporting on where shortages exist and how preparation programs are addressing demand for teachers. This will allow the state to better target investments for all educator shortage strategies, and help make the case a few years out for which strategies have been the most effective.
- The Children’s Campaign supports House Bill 1309 with the inclusion of Amendments L.001 and L.002. Thank you to Reps. Coleman and Wilson for bringing this bill and thanks to all of you for your time.