Written Testimony in response to Questions from Committee Members – In support of SB 13, Expand Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Act – House Education Committee – May 7, 2018 – Erin Miller, Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Colorado Children's Campaign

- There are a number of studies linking participation in school lunches with academic achievements and other positive child development outcomes.
- From the Food Research and Action Center:
    - Behavioral, emotional, and mental health, and academic problems are more prevalent among children and adolescents struggling with hunger.
    - Children and adolescents experiencing hunger have lower math scores and poorer grades.
    - Children with hunger are more likely to have repeated a grade, received special education services, or received mental health counseling, than low-income children who do not experience hunger.
    - A study examining the impact of breakfast in the classroom programs in Denver found that there was a positive impact on chronic absences, excessive tardiness and office referrals.
- From the Journal of Nutrition: Food-insufficient adolescents were significantly more likely to have attempted suicide, even when controlling for income.
- From the Brookings Institute: Schools that provide healthy lunches see increased scores on end of year assessments (about 4%), and these increases in scores are 40% larger for students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch.