

**Written testimony as prepared for delivery in support of HB19-1032 --  
Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education [S. Lontine / N. Todd | D. Coram] –  
by Erin Miller, Vice President of Health Initiatives, Colorado Children’s Campaign**

February 28, 2019

Senate Health and Insurance Committee

1:30pm

SCR 357

- Chair Fields and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1032 and thank you to Senators Todd and Coram bringing this bill forward.
- My name is Erin Miller and I’m Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign.
- Comprehensive sexual education is good for kids. Medically-accurate and inclusive human sexuality education has been shown to help students make the safest and most empowered choices about their relationships.
- It teaches important concepts like consent, and there is emerging evidence that comprehensive programs that pay meaningful attention to issues related to gender and power are more likely than programs that do not address these topics to demonstrate significant, positive outcomes in reducing STIs and unintended pregnancies.<sup>i</sup>
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists notes, “...studies have demonstrated that *comprehensive* sexuality education programs reduce the rates of sexual activity, sexual risk behaviors (eg, number of partners and unprotected intercourse), STIs, and adolescent pregnancy.”<sup>ii</sup>
- And finally, the American Academy of Pediatrics states that “A comprehensive sexuality program provides medically accurate information, recognizes the diversity of values and beliefs represented in the community, and complements and augments the sexuality education children receive from their families, religious and community groups, and health care professionals. Adolescents and most parents agree that school-based programs need to be an important source of formal education for adolescent sexual health.”<sup>iii</sup>
- This is why the Children’s Campaign, together with our partners at the Colorado chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics support this bill.
- I am happy to take any questions.

- Thank you again. We urge your support of this bill.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2015/01/23/09/37/sexuality-education-as-part-of-a-comprehensive-health-education-program-in-k-to-12-schools>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Adolescent-Health-Care/Comprehensive-Sexuality-Education?IsMobileSet=false>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/138/2/e20161348.full.pdf>