

**Written Testimony as prepared for delivery in support of HB19-1118 – Time Period to Cure Lease Violation (Jackson & Galindo/A. Williams) to the Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee by Sarah Barnes, Manager of Special Policy Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign**

- Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Sarah Barnes and I’m the Manager of Special Policy Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign.
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 1118. And thank you Senator Williams for your leadership in bringing this bill forward.
- We support this bill because there is a clear connection between stable housing and child well-being. Eviction, and the residential mobility and instability it causes, has negative impacts on children’s health and academic outcomes, and on their mental health and social-emotional development.
- And research shows that eviction has a disproportionate impact on kids, because families with children face eviction at significantly higher rates than other groups.<sup>i</sup>
- Families who are evicted are more likely to experience homelessness or be forced to move into poor-quality housing, both of which place children’s safety, well-being, and healthy development in jeopardy. Children who experience high rates of residential instability or homelessness have lower academic achievement and delayed literacy skills. They are more likely to be truant and more likely to drop out of school. Increased residential mobility is also linked to higher rates of adolescent violence and children’s health risks.<sup>ii</sup>
- Mothers who were evicted in the previous year have higher rates of maternal depression, which affects their children’s healthy development and also affects mothers’ ability to work and provide for their children.<sup>iii</sup> Pregnant people who experience homelessness are much more likely to have pregnancy complications, and prenatal homelessness is associated with pre-term delivery and low-birthweight infants.<sup>iv</sup>
- HB 1118 would provide families with a more reasonable length of time to remedy a lease violation, which can help prevent the negative impacts of an eviction on children and families.
- Thank you, and we urge your support of HB 1118.

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<sup>i</sup> First Focus Campaign for Children. (2017.) Children and Families Facing Eviction: Policy Recommendations to Support Stability.

<sup>ii</sup> Desmond M et al. (2013). Evicting Children. Social Forces. Harvard University.

<sup>iii</sup> First Focus Campaign for Children. (2017.) Children and Families Facing Eviction: Policy Recommendations to Support Stability.

<sup>iv</sup> Cutts D et al. (2014). Homelessness During Pregnancy: A Unique, Time-Dependent Risk Factor of Birth Outcomes. Maternal Child Health Journal. Clark R et al. (2019). Homelessness Contributes To Pregnancy Complications. Health Affairs.