

Written Testimony as prepared for delivery in support to HB20-1007 – Diverse Kindergarten Through 12th Grade Educator Workforce Report (Rep. Coleman/Fields) to the Senate Education Committee by Stephanie Perez-Carrillo, Policy Analyst at the Children’s Campaign

March 5, 2020

- Thank you, Madame Chair and members of the committee. My name is Stephanie Perez-Carrillo and I currently serve as a Policy Analyst at the Colorado Children’s Campaign.
- I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1007 and am thankful to Representative Coleman and Senator Fields for bringing forth this bill.
- We support this bill because of the problem it seeks to understand and address – namely an increasing and ever-changing diverse K-12 student population and the lack of diverse representation in the educator workforce.
- I am one of the many educators that make up the 46 percent of Hispanic teachers who don’t pass the licensure exam. I took the secondary mathematics exam 7 times and failed every single time in my first year as an educator. I was then told by my principal and school district leadership that they could not retain me beyond my induction year.
- Even though I had built great relationships with my students and had a passage rate of 80 percent on end of course assessments that year, I was told I could not return.
- I was one of three Spanish-speaking teachers of color and the only Cuban American teacher in a school of 1500 students, where more than 90 percent of the students received free or reduced priced lunch and were students of color.
- For many of my high school students, I was the first brown, Latina teacher they had ever had.
- A report like the one created by this bill would have been extremely helpful when I had this experience. I hope teachers like me, can be better informed about programs that successfully prepare educators.
- We support this bill because we know numerous studies have strongly suggested that having diverse teachers positively impacts student achievement for all students, but especially for students who share similar demographics to that of the teacher.
- HB 1007 would provide diverse prospective educators with access to the information they need to determine which preparation program gives them, the teaching candidate the best chance of becoming an educator.
- Thank you, and we urge your support of HB 1007.