

Written Testimony as prepared for delivery in a support position to HB21-1010 – Diverse Kindergarten Through 12th Grade Educator Workforce Report (Rep. Ricks/Fields) to the House Education Committee by Stephanie Perez-Carrillo, Policy and Partnerships Manager at the Children’s Campaign

March 25, 2021

- Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Stephanie Perez-Carrillo and I currently serve as a Policy and Partnerships Manager at the Colorado Children’s Campaign.
- I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1010 and am thankful to Representatives Ricks and Gonzales-Gutierrez 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. While nearly half of Colorado students identify as students of color, 86 percent of all Colorado teachers are white, with 67 percent of all teachers in Colorado being white women.
- I represent just one of many educators who 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 a significant body of research strongly suggests that students benefit from having diverse teachers, positively impacting test scores and college matriculation rates, as Representative Ricks mentioned in her opening remarks. Research shows that a diverse educator workforce positively impacts children’s academic and social-emotional development.
- HB 1010 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 1010. |

Commented [BT1]: I don't say this often but this is perfect!

Commented [LC2R1]: Agree. Thanks for sharing this story (for the 2nd year) with the committee Steph!

Commented [RK3R1]: Love Love Love this!

