

Written Testimony as Prepared for Delivery in Support of HB22-1294: Special Education Services in Charter Schools by Riley Kitts

- Thank you, Madam Chair, and good afternoon members of the committee. My name is Riley Kitts, and I'm the Government Affairs Director at the Colorado Children's Campaign.
- The Colorado Children's Campaign is a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy and research organization that has been advocating for the last 37 years for every chance for every child.
- Thank you very much for the opportunity today to speak in support of House Bill 1294
- I will be brief because so many points have already been well-stated. We support House Bill 1294 because it removes a key structural and legal barrier that has historically prevented charter schools from serving more students.
- If charter schools are allowed to work together to run special education programs, we believe they will be better able to serve students with special needs, and that more students will have access to the services they need to be successful both in the classroom and in life.
- We also believe very strongly that families should be able to have their children get an education and receive services in a setting that fits their child's needs best, whether it be a traditional K-12 school or a charter.
- Thank you to Representatives Michaelson Jenet and Young for championing this bill. Your commitment to equitable access for all students is unwavering.
- We urge you to vote yes on House Bill 1294 to ensure students with a range of abilities can thrive in whatever school they choose. Thank you.