

Testimony as Submitted in Support of SB23-184: Protections for Residential Tenants by Hunter Nelson, Policy Analyst at the Colorado Children's Campaign

Senate Local Government & Housing Committee

April 11, 2023

2:00pm

SCR 352

Dear Madam Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Hunter Nelson, and I am a Policy Analyst at the Colorado Children's Campaign. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy, research, and advocacy organization dedicated to realizing every chance for every child in Colorado. Together with our partner organizations and communities across the state, we advocate for public policies and investments that remove barriers for the most impacted children and families and improve well-being for every child and every family.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB23-184 "Protections for Residential Tenants." The Children's Campaign supports this bill because the skyrocketing cost of housing in Colorado continues to greatly impact families with children, and the stress of housing instability negatively impacts children's emotional and physical health and development, academic achievement, and general well-being. The Colorado Health Institute found that the affordability and stability of housing are some of the biggest challenges for families with children in our state.¹

Incomes in our state have not kept pace with the rising cost of living, including housing costs. This makes it extremely difficult for families to find and maintain stable housing. Requirements imposed on renters, including burdensome security deposits and rent multipliers, create additional barriers. SB23-184 would help relieve some of these burdens for families. Colorado families should not have to struggle to make ends meet. Given the severe negative impacts of housing insecurity and homelessness for children and families, it is critical that we prioritize immediate solutions to help avoid this destabilizing and traumatizing experience.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development found that the number of people in families with children in Colorado shelters increased by 16% between 2020 and 2021, among the largest absolute increases across states between those years.² Colorado must advance multiple solutions to improve access to safe, stable housing for children and families. This bill will remove some of the immediate barriers to housing for families with children in Colorado, helping to prevent homelessness and allowing for greater housing stability and better health outcomes. **Please vote yes on SB23-184.**

Thank you,

Hunter Nelson

¹ [Housing Equity for Web.pdf \(coloradohealthinstitute.org\)](#)

² U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2022, Feb). The 2021 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress.

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