

Written Testimony in support of SB23-210 “Update Administration of Certain Human Services” by Sarah Barnes, Director of Family Economic Prosperity Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

April 5, 2023, upon adjournment

SCR 357

- Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Sarah Barnes and I am the Director of Family Economic Prosperity Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign.
- The Colorado Children’s Campaign is a non-profit, non-partisan, policy, research and advocacy organization, committed to securing every chance for every child in Colorado since our founding in 1985.
- Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB23-210.
- We believe crafting strong equity-informed policy must include meaningful engagement with directly impacted individuals and groups throughout the policy development phase, the legislative process, and during implementation.
- It is also critically important that any boards, commissions, and task forces in Colorado represent the diversity of our state, including strong representation from directly affected communities.
- It is not enough to list those individuals or groups who should be appointed or considered for government boards, commissions, and task forces. Reducing the barriers to participation and supporting individuals’ ability to engage meaningfully are just as important.
- This includes compensating individuals for their time and expertise, especially community members and those who are not government employees already paid to participate.
- SB23-210 would allow for compensation of members of boards and commissions who have lived experience. This is a critical step toward centering and valuing the expertise of directly impacted individuals.
- We urge your support of SB23-210. Thank you.