

COMMITTEE TESTIMONY TIPS AND TEMPLATE

Listen to committee hearings:

<https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00327/Harmony/en/View/UpcomingEvents>

Sign-up for written and/or live testimony: <https://www2.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2022A/commsumm.nsf/signIn.xsp>

1. Go to the above link
2. Select the right option under “How do you wish to testify?”
3. Click “By Committee and Hearing Item”
4. Scroll to the right committee under “Committee Name”
5. Select the date and time under “Meeting Date and Time”
6. Select the correct bill under “Hearing Item”
7. Fill out your information
8. Submit your written comments –OR- you will receive a Zoom link from Capitol staff before the committee hearing.

Introduction: State who you are and if you are affiliated with any group or organization. You can also state your district and how you show up in your community (as a parent, teacher, etc.). To be respectful, it is recommended that you thank the Chair of the committee and the bill sponsors in your opening.

Hello, members of the committee. I am Riley Kitts, and I am the Vice President of Strategy & Government Affairs at the Colorado Children’s Campaign. The Children’s Campaign is a nonpartisan policy organization that leverages data and research to unapologetically advocate for kids. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB25-1179 and thank you to Representatives Zokaie and Feret for carrying this legislation.

First and foremost, this bill is a critical public health measure. Child restraint systems play a vital role in reducing serious injuries and fatalities in motor vehicle accidents. However, even minor collisions can compromise the integrity of a car seat, making it unsafe for future use.

Ask of the committee: State your position on the bill and provide a clear, actionable request for the committee (vote yes, vote no, or amend the bill).

By guaranteeing insurance coverage for replacements, HB25-1179 eliminates the risk of families unknowingly using damaged, ineffective child restraint systems, ultimately preventing injuries and saving lives. A child’s early years are foundational to their lifelong health and development. Properly functioning car seats are a fundamental component of child safety, as young children are especially vulnerable in car accidents.

Problem to be solved: Let the committee know what the problem is and why it is important they address it with the legislation at hand. Give some statistics or examples from your own lived experience. It is good to have ready references or citations for any statistics, or you can offer to follow up after if asked by any members.

This bill ensures that parents and caregivers can consistently provide safe travel for their children without hesitation or financial hardship. Investing in early childhood safety is not just a responsibility—it is a moral imperative that ensures every child, regardless of their family’s financial circumstances, is protected on the road. And for many families, purchasing a new car seat after an accident is an unexpected and often burdensome expense, with high-quality models costing hundreds of dollars.



Solution: Explain why the bill will or won't help the problem you describe. What benefits would the bill bring? How would it directly impact you or your community? If you are requesting amendments or modifications, how would those changes impact you?

HB25-1179 alleviates this financial strain by ensuring that insurance policies cover this critical replacement cost. Families should not have to choose between their child's safety and other essential expenses. This bill promotes economic fairness, helping parents and caregivers recover from accidents without additional stress or financial hardship.

Closing and restate your ask: Thank the committee and sponsors. Clearly restate your request on how to vote.

HB25-1179 is a commonsense measure that prioritizes public health, safeguards young children, and eases the financial burden on families. I urge this committee to support its passage to ensure that every child in Colorado can travel safely, regardless of their family's financial situation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Testimony in support of HB25-1179: Auto Insurance Coverage Child Restraint System
House Business Affairs & Labor Committee
Riley Kitts, VP of Strategy & Government Affairs - Colorado Children's Campaign

Hello, members of the committee. I am Riley Kitts, and I am the Vice President of Strategy & Government Affairs at the Colorado Children's Campaign. The Children's Campaign is a nonpartisan policy organization that leverages data and research to unapologetically advocate for kids.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB25-1179, and thank you to Representatives Zokaie and Feret for carrying this legislation. First and foremost, this bill is a critical public health measure. Child restraint systems play a vital role in reducing serious injuries and fatalities in motor vehicle accidents. However, even minor collisions can compromise the integrity of a car seat, making it unsafe for future use.

By guaranteeing insurance coverage for replacements, HB25-1179 eliminates the risk of families unknowingly using damaged, ineffective child restraint systems, ultimately preventing injuries and saving lives. A child's early years are foundational to their lifelong health and development. Properly functioning car seats are a fundamental component of child safety, as young children are especially vulnerable in car accidents.

This bill ensures that parents and caregivers can consistently provide safe travel for their children without hesitation or financial hardship. Investing in early childhood safety is not just a responsibility—it is a moral imperative that ensures every child, regardless of their family's financial circumstances, is protected on the road.

And for many families, purchasing a new car seat after an accident is an unexpected and often burdensome expense, with high-quality models costing hundreds of dollars. HB25-1179 alleviates this financial strain by ensuring that insurance policies cover this critical replacement cost.

Families should not have to choose between their child's safety and other essential expenses. This bill promotes economic fairness, helping parents and caregivers recover from accidents without additional stress or financial hardship. HB25-1179 is a commonsense measure that prioritizes public health, safeguards young children, and eases the financial burden on families.

I urge this committee to support its passage to ensure that every child in Colorado can travel safely, regardless of their family's financial situation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

