

**Final**  
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

Date:	09/22/2014	ATTENDANCE
Time:	<b>09:30 AM to 12:09 PM</b>	Kefalas      X
		Marble        X
Place:	HCR 0112	McCann       X
		Wilson        E
This Meeting was called to order by		Todd          X
<u>Representative Pettersen</u>		Pettersen     X

This Report was prepared by  
Lisa Gezelter

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, \* = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Call to Order	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only
Public Comment	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only
Presentation of Draft Interim Legislation - Bill 1	Forwarded to Legislative Council
Presentation of Draft Interim Legislation - Bill 2	Forwarded to Legislative Council
Presentation of Draft Interim Legislation - Bill 3	Committee Discussion Only, No Vote Taken
Presentation of Draft Interim Legislation - Bill 4	Forwarded to Legislative Council
Discuss Letter of Support to the Joint Budget Committee	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

**09:31 AM -- Call to order**

Representative Pettersen, Chair, called the meeting to order. The members of the commission went around the table and introduced themselves. Representative Schafer joined the members at the table. Representative Pettersen discussed the purpose and charge of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission (ECSRLC) and talked about the possibility of continuing the commission. She provided a handout (Attachment A) regarding ongoing steps for the commission members and their working groups. She talked about the meeting agenda and schedule for the day.

**09:34 AM -- Public Comment**

Representative Pettersen opened up the meeting for public comment on the bill drafts being considered by the commission.

The following people testified:

**09:35 AM --** Ms. Gloria Higgins, representing Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC), discussed the childcare contribution tax credit. She talked about the idea of creating a public awareness campaign to remind taxpayers of the credit's availability. She provided a handout (Attachment B).

**09:38 AM --** Mr. David Hammond, representing EPIC, discussed his experience with annual donor campaigns and how tax credits persuade donors to contribute. He said that tax credits allow donors to give more than they might have otherwise given, and noted that when the tax credit was deferred during 2011 and 2012, giving to child care declined. Mr. Hammond talked about his involvement with the Mile High United Way (MHUW). He said that donors may choose to give to a child care fund housed within MHUW and these contributions would qualify for the tax credit. From the contributions, he said MHUW makes grants to qualified child care centers, and provides technical support and training to child care facilities. He provided a handout (Attachment C).

Ms. Higgins and Mr. Hammond responded to questions from the commission members concerning grant-writing, outreach efforts, and whether or not contributions to religious schools are eligible for the tax credit.

**09:56 AM --** Mr. Mark Kling, representing the Family Resource Center Association, requested that commission approve a letter from the ECSRLC to the Joint Budget Committee, which recommends an increase in state funding to Colorado's Family Resource Centers. Mr. Kling agreed to provide his testimony when the letter was brought up for discussion later in the morning's agenda.

**10:00 AM -- Presentation of Draft Interim Legislation - Bill 1**

Ms. Brita Darling, Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS), presented Bill 1 (Attachment D). Bill 1 concerns the distribution of child support payments while a recipient is receiving benefits under the Colorado Works program. Ms. Darling explained that the bill requires the state to pass-through child support payments assigned to the state to the intended recipient, rather than keeping it during the time the recipient is receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) support. She said that the bill changes the pass-through from being permissive, to being a requirement. She said that the current requirement for recipients to assign the child support payments to the Colorado Department of Human Services (DHS) will remain in place, but the pass-through will be a requirement under the bill. She said that the amount of pass-through will be the entire child support payment, not a percentage. Ms. Darling walked the commission through each section of the bill and discussed including a safety clause versus a petition clause in the bill.

The following people testified:

**10:16 AM --** Ms. Gini Pingnot, representing Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI), testified on the bill. She said that CCI has not taken a position on the bill, but discussed concerns that have been communicated to her by county executives regarding the proposal. She talked about child support enforcement and the requirement that county human services departments work with the families receiving TANF to collect these payments. Ms. Pingnot said that if pass-through is required, the state will need to reevaluate the role of counties in collecting the payments. She said that under the current structure, the ability to retain child support is an incentive for counties to do the enforcement. Another concern she shared was whether or not the additional child support being passed-through would be considered income and in effect make families ineligible for program support, creating a cliff effect.

**10:22 AM**

Ms. Darling stated that the bill is silent on income eligibility, so no change to current requirements will change with the bill. Ms. Pingnot continued her comments. She said that if the bill passes and counties no longer receive funds to enforce the collection of the child support payments, then state General Fund backfill will be necessary. She estimated that the amount of backfill would be around \$6 million annually. She talked in greater detail about funding for the Colorado Works program, and noted that the program has about \$150 million which is split up between counties, most of which are federal and county dollars. She said that no state General Fund monies are currently included. She said that counties want General Fund dollars to be included so that the basic cash assistance grants will provide more than \$150 million per year in support to recipients. Ms. Pingnot responded to questions from the commission concerning child support enforcement and General Fund backfill to counties.

**10:32 AM --** Mr. Terry Scanlon, representing the Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP), testified in favor of the bill. He said that the goal of the bill is to reduce poverty and advance economic security. He said that child support payments from non-custodial parents increase when the parent knows that the money will be retained by the child and not go to the state. He said that he thinks the bill will increase parental income in Colorado. He talked about the way assigned child support payments are currently distributed: about half goes to the state and counties, and the other half goes to the federal government. He said that, essentially, non-custodial parents in low-wage jobs whose children receive support under TANF, are supporting governmental enforcement efforts, and that this is a major flaw of the system. He said that a few years ago, the federal government changed the system to allow a portion of the federal government's share to be waived; \$100 for one child families and up to \$200 for two or more children. He said that the bill will allow more money to stay in Colorado. Mr. Scanlon disagreed with Ms. Pingenot on the estimated amount of county backfill that would be required, and said that DHS has estimated it will cost \$4.1 million to backfill counties. He added that there would be approximately \$1 million in additional funds required to update computer systems for the change. Mr. Scanlon talked about TANF and said that it is a revenue source that the state gets from the federal government, and that Colorado Works is Colorado's effort to meet the goals of the federal TANF program. He said that around 2001-2002, the state had a nice TANF reserve, but that the state dialed back on General Fund support for the Colorado Works program. He would like to see the Joint Budget Committee appropriate money to the Colorado Works program from the General Fund. He added that it is not the best use of parents' money to support state and federal enforcement programs, and that the General Fund has sufficient resources. Mr. Scanlon responded to questions from the commission. Ms. Chaer Robert, also representing the CCLP, joined Mr. Scanlon at the table to respond to questions.

<b>BILL:</b>	<b>Bill 1</b>	
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>10:50:50 AM</b>	
<b>MOVED:</b>	Kefalas	
<b>MOTION:</b>	Move that Bill 1 be included as one of the bills to be forwarded to Legislative Council. The motion passed on a vote of 5-0, with one member excused.	
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Pettersen	
		<b>VOTE</b>
	Kefalas	Yes
	Marble	Yes
	McCann	Yes
	Wilson	Excused
	Todd	Yes
	Pettersen	Yes
<b>FINAL YES: 5 NO: 0 EXC: 1 ABS: 0 FINAL ACTION: PASS</b>		

**10:51 AM**

The bill will start in the Senate and Senator Kefalas and Senator Marble will be the co-prime sponsors in the Senate. Representative Pettersen will be the prime sponsor in the House. Senator Todd will be a co-sponsor.

**10:54 AM -- Presentation of Draft Interim Legislation - Bill 2**

Ms. Nicole Myers, OLLS, presented Bill 2 (Attachment E). The bill provides an income tax credit to early childhood education providers who hold an Early Childhood Professional Credential from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), and meet the employment requirements of the bill. Ms. Myers discussed eligibility for the income tax credit and the allowable amount of the credit at each level of the CDE credential.

**10:56 AM**

Representative McCann explained Amendment 1 to the bill (Attachment F). She said that the amendment makes the tax credit non-refundable and allows eligible taxpayers to carry the credit forward for 10 years.

**10:59 AM --** Ms. Kathryn Hammerbeck, representing the Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado, was asked to come to the table to respond to questions from the commission members. She discussed the income tax credit proposal. She said that the wage of those professionals who would qualify for the credit is about \$10 - \$12 per hour. She said that the purpose of the bill is to incentivize continuing education. She said that it is difficult to get low-wage earners to return to school and that the credit is envisioned as a financial incentive for these professionals to obtain college degrees. She talked about the proposed amendment, and said that she does not think it will be effective. She said that the goal is to provide the highest-quality, higher-educated teachers even in low-income serving preschool programs. Commission discussion ensued. Ms. Hammerbeck stated that individuals must first meet the credential and employment requirements before they can qualify for the credit.

Senator Todd commented that the bill is a way to keep good people in the field working with low-income kids when these same professionals could be making more money in a privately funded school. Ms. Myers responded to questions from the commission. Ms. Hammerbeck said that the people at the highest level of credential make about \$14 per hour. She said that Level III of the credential is equivalent to an Associate's degree. She said that pay rates are typically lower in rural communities.

The following person testified:

**11:17 AM --** Mr. Eric Myers, representing the Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR), came to the table to respond to questions from the commission. He said that DOR is not taking an official position on the bill. He shared concerns about the provisions of the bill related to the credit's refundability. He said that refundable tax credits have been keyed on by the Inspector General of the US Department of Treasury because many of the refundable credits are issued improperly. He said that there is potential for fraud and that controls would need to be strengthened. He suggested that an independent agency certify the recipients of the credit. Mr. Myers responded to commission member questions about the income level requirement for the credit, of which there is none, and ways to determine if the cohort of eligible people for the bill's tax credit are also accessing tax credits for low income workers. Mr. Myers responded that DOR does not currently keep certification data and has no way of knowing if the people accessing the bill's credit are also accessing other income tax credits.

Representative McCann moved Amendment 1, but it failed for lack of a second.

<b>BILL:</b>	<b>Bill 2</b>	
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>11:24:55 AM</b>	
<b>MOVED:</b>	Todd	
<b>MOTION:</b>	Move that Bill 2 be included as one of the bills to be forwarded to Legislative Council. The motion passed on a vote of 4-1, with one member excused.	
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Pettersen	
		<b>VOTE</b>
	Kefalas	Yes
	Marble	No
	McCann	Yes
	Wilson	Excused
	Todd	Yes
	Pettersen	Yes
<b>Final YES: 4 NO: 1 EXC: 1 ABS: 0 FINAL ACTION: PASS</b>		

**11:26 AM**

The bill will start in the House and Representative Pettersen will be the prime sponsor in the House. Senator Todd will be the prime sponsor in the Senate. Senator Kefalas will be a co-sponsor.

**11:28 AM -- Presentation of Draft Interim Legislation - Bill 3**

Ms. Julie Pelegrin, OLLS, explained Bill 3 (Attachment G). The bill repeals the existing Early Childhood Educator Development Scholarship program and creates the Early Childhood Educator Development Fund, which consists of any General Fund appropriations and gifts, grants, and donations that the CDE may receive. The CDE must distribute the moneys in the fund to tax-exempt nonprofit corporations or institutions of higher education for scholarship programs to assist early childhood education professionals in obtaining a post-secondary credential in early childhood education. The State Board of Education (SBE) would adopt rules for the program and the awarding of grants. Senator Todd discussed Amendment #1 to the bill (Attachment H).

The following person testified:

**11:32 AM --** Ms. Heather Tritten, Interim President of Qualistar Colorado, discussed the bill. She said that the bill is a way to support early childhood professionals and that in the long-run this bill is really important. She talked about the professional development team at CDE, which is funded by the DHS, and questioned whether the Office of Professional Development ought to live at CDE or at DHS. She said that no resolution has been reached at this time.

Senator Todd commented that the bill is not ready for prime time, but that she will continue to work on the issue. Senator Todd asked that Bill 3 be removed from consideration as one of the commission bills to forward to Legislative Council. No vote was held on the bill.

**11:37 AM**

Representative Pettersen thanked Senator Todd for her work and expressed disappointment that the bill would not move forward as a commission bill. She volunteered to continue working on the issue with Senator Todd.

**11:38 AM -- Presentation of Draft Interim Legislation - Bill 4**

Ms. Julie Pelegrin, OLLS, presented Bill 4 (Attachment I). The bill authorizes funding for an additional 3,000 children to be served under the Colorado Preschool Program as half-time or full-time preschool students. Page 2, lines 8-11 - just restated the totals of the CPP slots only usable for preschool. then lines 12-16, for 15-16, increase the number of just preschool by 3000, section 2 of bill makes clear ECARE is in addition to preschool slots. ecare can be used for preschool or kindergarten.

The following person testified:

**11:41 AM --** Mr. Rich Jones, representing the Bell Policy Center, spoke in support of the bill. He talked about the value of preschool education to children, and for future advancement of the state. He said that about 16,000 additional children are qualified for the Colorado Preschool Program, but have not been able to be served. He said that Bell Policy Center looks favorably on increasing the number of preschool slots and appreciates that the spots are being dedicated solely to preschool students.

**11:42 AM**

Representative Pettersen talked about the origins of the bill and sought the opinion of the other commission members about moving the bill forward. Commission discussion ensued.

<b>BILL:</b>	<b>Bill 4</b>	
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>11:46:50 AM</b>	
<b>MOVED:</b>	Pettersen	
<b>MOTION:</b>	Move that Bill 4 be included as one of the bills to be forwarded to Legislative Council. The motion passed on a vote of 4-1, with one member excused.	
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Kefalas	
		<b>VOTE</b>
	Kefalas	Yes
	Marble	No
	McCann	Yes
	Wilson	Excused
	Todd	Yes
	Pettersen	Yes
<b>Final YES: 4 NO: 1 EXC: 1 ABS: 0 FINAL ACTION: PASS</b>		

**11:48 AM**

The bill will start in the House and Representative Pettersen will be the prime sponsor in the House. Senator Todd and Senator Kefalas will be the co-prime sponsors in the Senate. Representative McCann volunteered to be a co-sponsor.

**11:50 AM -- Discuss Letter of Support to the Joint Budget Committee**

Representative Pettersen asked that Mr. Kling to return to the table to discuss the ECSRLC letter to the Joint Budget Committee in support of the state's Family Resource Centers.

**11:51 AM --** Mr. Kling, Family Resource Center Association, returned to the table to express his support and appreciation for the commission's work and letter of support.

**11:52 AM**

Senator Kefalas explained the contents of the letter that will go to the Joint Budget Committee (Attachment J). He said that the letter asks the Joint Budget Committee to consider allocating \$2.2 million General Fund to the state's Family Resource Centers. He said that there are currently 24 Family Resource Centers across Colorado. He said that the letter details how the funds will be used by the centers. He said that the protocol for letters such as this is for the Chair to sign off on it. Senator Kefalas asked for the commission members to express their thoughts about the letter. Representative Pettersen expressed support for the letter. Senator Kefalas thanked legislative staff for their work on the letter. Senator Todd expressed her support for the letter. Senator Marble said that she appreciates Family Resource Centers, but expressed reservations about the increased funding, noting that the centers should have to rise to a certain level of accomplishment in order to receive funding. She said that she would like the letter to address accountability. Senator Todd commented that adding those items to the letter would be beneficial. Senator Kefalas said that he doesn't believe that additional language is necessary and that program quality, and tracking and reporting of outcomes are already discussed in the letter.

**12:02 PM**

Representative Pettersen thanked Mr. Kling. She thanked the stakeholders in the room and discussed the idea of the commission and working groups continuing to meet. Senator Todd thanked Representative Pettersen for her leadership on the commission and asked for clarification on continuing the commission. Representative Pettersen said that the group should come together with stakeholders and other experts and plan lunch-n-learn opportunities. She said that nothing is likely to happen until the 2015 session begins in January. Senator Kefalas thanked the members of the commission and the stakeholder and community members. He shared an observation, questioning if Colorado uses evidence-based practices to assess kindergartners for promotion to the next grade level. He shared a story of a kindergartner who had test anxiety.

**12:09 PM**

Representative Pettersen thanked the members again and the commission adjourned.

### Recommendations for continued work on behalf of the ECSRLC

1) Continue working with the ECLC on issues where both Commissions can leverage their strength. Rep. Pettersen stay closely tied to ECLC via the Executive Committee by getting on their agenda and checking in.

	Co-Chair	Consider Developing These Ideas
In Partnership w ECLC	Anna Jo Haynes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Sustainable funding, post RTT*</li> <li>· QRIS implementation of alignment of standards*</li> <li>· Economic well-being index*</li> <li>· Clarify how the ECLC and ECSRLC <i>should</i> work together, e.g. MOU; "process" for next interim session</li> </ul>

2) Continue the working groups to further EC policy developments and/or identify potential policy solutions.

a) 3 of the 5 working group co-chairs can continue.

b) Reconnect working groups with ECSRLC members for an update in January.

c) The charge of the working groups to continue is two-fold: Keeping track of the 4 bills proposed in 2014 as they move through the 2015 legislative session, and continuing to develop additional ideas for the 2015 ECSRLC interim session. Based on 2014's interim session's ideas and panel presentations, each working group has various topics it can pursue as listed in this matrix. (\*) means this idea can be developed in more than one working group and/or with the ECLC.

Working Group	Co-Chair	Consider Developing These Ideas
Collaborative Funding	Senator Kefalas Marie Hueston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Economic well-being index*</li> <li>· Sustainable funding, post RTT*</li> <li>· Family, Friend and Neighbor/PASO*</li> <li>· Preschool funding alignment</li> <li>· Economic development/less costly facilities for EC providers</li> </ul>
Family Support	Rep. Pettersen Senator Marble Jildi Gentry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Family, Friend and Neighbor/PASO*</li> <li>· Full utilization of CCCAP dollars in each county</li> <li>· HigherEd opportunities for single</li> </ul>

		parents
Health/Mental Health	Rep. McCann Barbara Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Prenatal to Age Three issues</li> <li>· Immunizations</li> <li>· Professional development in behavioral health topic</li> <li>· Coordinated screening processes</li> <li>· Assess needs after November health report is released</li> <li>· JFK &amp; Colorado Health Foundation 7 recommendations for mental health</li> <li>· Data on expelled children</li> </ul>
Kindergarten & School Readiness	Rep. Wilson Ruth Aponte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Full-day kindergarten and CPP</li> <li>· QRIS implementation of alignment of standards*</li> <li>· Clarify how K-12 and ECSRLC <i>should</i> work together</li> <li>· Kindergarten readiness</li> <li>· Third grade reading proficiency</li> </ul>
Quality Work Force	Senator Todd Heather Tritten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Impact of educator effectiveness (SB191) on EC educators</li> </ul>

d) Early childhood stakeholders to receive training in policy development and options to new legislation.

3) Continue to develop EC champions within the legislature and in each new class of legislators.

a) Create a publicly available oral or written history of EC in Colorado.

b) Host an annual EC orientation breakfast with newly elected officials

c) Reach out to existing and new legislators in their district.



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#### Founding Members

**Dan Ritchie, Founding Chair**  
Chairman and CEO  
Denver Center for the Performing Arts

**Pat Hamill**  
Chairman and CEO  
Oakwood Homes

**David Merage**  
Chairman and CEO  
Consolidated Investment Group

#### Managing Board

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Mile High United Way

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Colorado Children's Campaign

**Tim Wolf**  
President  
Wolf Interests, Inc.

**Burnie Zercher**  
President  
Industrial Constructors / Managers, Inc.

## COLORADO CHILD CARE CONTRIBUTION TAX CREDIT

September 19, 2014

### Background:

The Child Care Contribution Tax Credit was passed in 1998 and has been amended six times. Currently, taxpayers that make a monetary contribution to promote qualified child care may receive a Colorado Income Tax Credit up to 50% of the total contribution, with limitations. In 2011 and 2012 the credit was deferred as a result of a legislative "trigger". In 2011 this "trigger" was eliminated with the tax credit partially available in 2013 and 2014. The full amount of the credit is restored in 2015.

### Financial Impact:

The limitations imposed by the "trigger" legislation created a loss of millions of dollars to the early childhood provider community.

Tax Year	# of Individual Filings	Individual Credits Claimed	# of Corporate Filings	Amount of Corporate Credits Claimed
2009	14,316	\$17,569,202	n/a	n/a
2010	16,220	22,067,911	40	\$288,883
2011	1,663	3,454,959	46	380,581
2012	783	2,093,155	20	52,284
2013	11,720	6,316,961	17	5,268
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,702</b>	<b>\$51,502,188</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>\$727,016</b>

### Early Childhood Data:

- ★ **90%** of the brain development happens by **AGE FIVE**
- ★ The Colorado Preschool Program serves **ONLY ONE IN FOUR OF OUR STATE'S FOUR-YEAR-OLDS**
- ★ Colorado students who **DO NOT READ AT GRADE LEVEL BY THIRD GRADE** (age 9) are 5 times more likely to drop out of high school
- ★ In Colorado, approximately **48% OF THE INCOME** for a single-parent household goes toward the cost of child care

### Business Impact of Investing in Early Childhood Services:

- ★ Reduces employee *absenteeism* and *turnover*
- ★ Reduces *distractions* caused by *lack of available, affordable child care*
- ★ Supports *quality child care and early education*
- ★ Commits to the development of *strong future workforce*
- ★ Contributes to *corporate social returns*
- ★ Recognizes the value of Colorado's *public/private partnership*

# Tax Credits

LIVE UNITED

Mile High United Way  
Give. Advocate. Volunteer.  
www.UnitedWayDenver.org

## The Opportunity

When you give to Mile High United Way you can take advantage of existing tax credit programs that enable you to give more, receive something in return and possibly multiply your gift in the process.

## The Options

You have two tax credit programs to choose from.

### Denver Enterprise Zone (DEZ)

Help increase the economic viability of individuals and families in metro Denver through the DEZ.

- Gift of \$250 or more.
- Directed to a DEZ program or agency.
- Eligible for 25% tax credit on state income tax.
- Tax credits for gifts of stock may vary.

### Child Care Contribution Credit (CCCC)

Help increase the quality and availability of child care in metro Denver through the Colorado CCCC.

- Gift of \$250 or more.
- Directed to a CCCC program or agency.
- Eligible for 50% tax credit on state income tax.
- CCCC is deferred (but not eliminated) for gifts in 2011 and 2012\*\*.
- In 2013 & 2014, tax credits can be claimed at 50% and 75%, respectively\*\*.
- In 2015, the credit allowed is 100%\*\*.

## Mile High United Way Projects Eligible for State Tax Credits <sup>▲</sup>

	DEZ	CCCC
<b>SCHOOL READINESS</b>		
<b>Mile High United Way's School Readiness Initiative</b> Provides thousands of children from low-income families access to high quality early education so they enter school ready to learn and build the skills necessary to read at or above grade level by third grade.		○
<b>Mile High United Way Child Care Fund</b> Provides quality early childhood education and afterschool opportunities for metro Denver's children and youth.		○
<b>Early Learning Ventures Alliance Fund</b> An initiative of the Laura and David Merage Foundation, Early Learning managing a financially stable, high-quality child care business.		○
<b>YOUTH SUCCESS</b>		
<b>Mile High United Way Youth Success Initiative</b> Provides thousands of students access to mentoring, quality afterschool programs, tutoring and dropout prevention, gang and violence intervention programs- all with the aim of reducing the high school dropout rate and providing students with a path toward advanced training and higher education.		○
<b>Mile High United Way's Bridging the Gap</b> Provides foster youth aging out of the foster care system with critical peer support, housing, education, employment and financial literacy skills.	○	
<b>Child Care Contribution Credit Eligible After School Programs</b> Provides students with safe, quality, supervised afterschool programs- keeping them engaged in school and more likely to succeed in the classroom and graduate from high school.		○
<b>ADULT SELF-SUFFICIENCY</b>		
<b>Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 Fund</b> A free, multi-lingual service available 24 hours a day/7 days a week which provides callers with referrals to non-emergency health and human services.	○	○
<b>Denver's Road Home</b> Provides comprehensive, wrap-around services for the homeless through corporations, service providers, the faith community and more- all with the aim ending homelessness as we know it.	○	
<b>Mile High United Way Individual Development Accounts</b> Provides income-eligible individuals with a matched savings account program designed to help them build assets and financial literacy skills as a step toward self-sufficiency and the purchase of their first home, investment in higher education or a small business.	○	

\*\*Due to a 2011 change in Colorado State law.

<sup>▲</sup> For a complete list on Mile High United Way partner agencies that are eligible for Tax Credits visit [www.UnitedWayDenver.org/TaxCredits/list](http://www.UnitedWayDenver.org/TaxCredits/list).

First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

9.17.14

BILL 1

Temporary storage location: S:\LLS\2015A\Bills\Pre-Draft\15-0101.wpd

LLS NO. 15-0101.01 Brita Darling x2241

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

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**Early Childhood and School Readiness Commission**

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**BILL TOPIC: "Colorado Works Pass-through Child Support Payment"**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT FOR PURPOSES OF**  
102 **THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billssummaries>.)*

**Early Childhood and School Readiness Commission.** Pursuant to the Colorado works program, while a recipient is receiving assistance, the recipient must assign to the department of human services (state department) his or her right to receive child support for purposes of reimbursing the state for the assistance paid to the recipient. The bill

requires the state department to pass through to the recipient current child support collected by the state department pursuant to the assignment. The state department shall annually report to the joint budget committee the amount of child support passed through to recipients. Further, the amount of the child support pass-through will not be included in income for purposes of calculating the amount of the applicant's or participant's basic cash assistance payment.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-108, **amend**  
3 (1)(b) as follows:

4           **26-2-108. Granting of assistance payments and social services.**

5 (1) (b) (I) In determining the amount of assistance payments to be  
6 granted, due account shall be taken of any income or property available  
7 to the applicant and any support, either in cash or in kind, that the  
8 applicant may receive from other sources, pursuant to rules of the state  
9 department. Effective July 1, 2000, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015, a  
10 county may pay families that are eligible for temporary assistance for  
11 needy families (TANF), as defined in section 26-2-703 (19), an amount  
12 that is equal to the state and county share of child support collections as  
13 described in section 26-13-108 (1). Such payments shall not be  
14 considered income for the purpose of grant calculation. However, such  
15 income shall be considered income for purposes of determining  
16 eligibility. If a county chooses to pay child support collections directly to  
17 a family that is eligible for temporary assistance for needy families  
18 (TANF), as defined in section 26-2-703 (19), the county shall report such  
19 payments to the state department for the month in which they occur and  
20 indicate the choice of this option in its performance contract for Colorado  
21 works. For the purposes of determining eligibility for public assistance or  
22 the amount of assistance payments, compensation received by the

1 applicant pursuant to the "Colorado Crime Victim Compensation Act",  
2 part 1 of article 4.1 of title 24, C.R.S., shall not be considered as income,  
3 property, or support available to such applicant.

4 (II) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016, A COUNTY SHALL PAY FAMILIES  
5 THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES  
6 (TANF), AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-2-703 (19), AN AMOUNT THAT IS  
7 EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT OF CURRENT CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS AS  
8 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-13-108 (1). SUCH PAYMENTS SHALL NOT BE  
9 CONSIDERED INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF CALCULATING A RECIPIENT'S BASIC  
10 CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF THIS ARTICLE. THE  
11 COUNTY SHALL REPORT THE AMOUNT OF THE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS  
12 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE MONTH IN WHICH THEY OCCUR. FOR  
13 THE PURPOSES OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR  
14 THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS, COMPENSATION RECEIVED BY  
15 THE APPLICANT PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO CRIME VICTIM  
16 COMPENSATION ACT", PART 1 OF ARTICLE 4.1 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S., SHALL  
17 NOT BE CONSIDERED AS INCOME, PROPERTY, OR SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO  
18 SUCH APPLICANT.

19 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-111, **amend** (3)  
20 **(b); and add** (3) (a.5) as follows:

21 **26-2-111. Eligibility for public assistance - rules - repeal.**  
22 **(3) Colorado works program.** (a.5) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION  
23 OF THIS SUBSECTION (3), THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY TO THE  
24 RECIPIENT THE CURRENT CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THE  
25 ASSIGNMENT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISREGARD THE AMOUNT  
26 OF CHILD SUPPORT PAID TO THE RECIPIENT PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH  
27 (a.5) IN CALCULATING THE AMOUNT OF THE RECIPIENT'S BASIC CASH

1 ASSISTANCE GRANT PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF THIS ARTICLE.

2 (b) The application shall contain a statement explaining this  
3 assignment AND THE PAYMENT TO THE RECIPIENT OF CHILD SUPPORT  
4 PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (a.5) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3).

5 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709, **amend** (1)  
6 (a) (II) and (1) (a) (III); and **add** (1) (a) (IV) as follows:

7 **26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs - rules.**

8 (1) **Standard of need - basic cash assistance grant.** (a) The state  
9 department shall promulgate rules determining the standard of need for  
10 eligibility for a basic cash assistance grant, whether an applicant or  
11 participant meets the standard of need, and the amount of the basic cash  
12 assistance grant. In addition to any other rules necessary for the  
13 implementation of this part 7, the state department's rules shall:

14 (II) Establish criteria for determining whether an applicant or  
15 participant meets the standard of need, including but not limited to what  
16 constitutes countable and excludable income for the purposes of  
17 eligibility for a basic cash assistance grant; and

18 (III) Establish the calculation for determining the amount of an  
19 eligible applicant's or participant's basic cash assistance grant, which  
20 calculation shall include an earned income disregard which shall be  
21 applied to the gross countable earned income of an applicant or  
22 participant who is employed. The earned income disregard shall promote  
23 work and self-sufficiency and shall benefit the applicant or participant by  
24 reducing the unintended economic consequences of becoming employed.  
25 The rules promulgated by the state department pursuant to this  
26 subparagraph (III) shall not establish an earned income disregard that  
27 results in an applicant or participant having fewer financial resources

1 available to him or her than a similarly situated applicant or participant  
2 would have had under the earned income disregard pursuant to section  
3 26-2-709 as it existed on July 1, 2009; AND

4 (IV) ESTABLISH THE CALCULATION FOR DETERMINING THE  
5 AMOUNT OF THE BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT, WHICH CALCULATION  
6 SHALL DISREGARD CURRENT CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS MADE TO A  
7 PARTICIPANT PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-2-111 (3) (a.5).

8 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-13-108, **amend**  
9 (3) as follows:

10 **26-13-108. Recovery of public assistance paid for child**  
11 **support and maintenance - interest collected on support obligations**  
12 **- designation in annual general appropriations act.** (3) (a) Effective  
13 July 1, 2000, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015, a county may pay families  
14 that are eligible for temporary assistance for needy families, pursuant to  
15 part 7 of article 2 of this title, an amount that is equal to the state and  
16 county share of child support collections as described in subsection (1) of  
17 this section. Such payments shall not be considered income for the  
18 purpose of grant calculation. However, such income shall be considered  
19 income for purposes of determining eligibility. If a county chooses to pay  
20 child support collections directly to a family that is eligible for temporary  
21 assistance for needy families, pursuant to part 7 of article 2 of this title,  
22 the county shall report such payments to the state department for the  
23 month in which the payments are made and shall indicate the choice of  
24 this option in its performance contract for Colorado works.

25 (b) (I) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016, A COUNTY SHALL PAY  
26 FAMILIES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY  
27 FAMILIES, PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF ARTICLE 2 OF THIS TITLE, AN AMOUNT

1 THAT IS EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT OF CURRENT CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS  
2 AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION. SUCH PAYMENTS  
3 SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF CALCULATING THE  
4 BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF ARTICLE 2 OF  
5 THIS TITLE. THE COUNTY SHALL REPORT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THE  
6 AMOUNT OF THE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH IN WHICH THE  
7 PAYMENTS ARE MADE.

8 (II) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY REPORT TO THE  
9 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE THE AMOUNT OF CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED  
10 AND PAID BY THE COUNTIES TO FAMILIES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR  
11 TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES, PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF  
12 ARTICLE 2 OF THIS TITLE.

13 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** (1) This  
14 act takes effect January 1, 2016; except that, if a referendum petition is  
15 filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against  
16 this act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period  
17 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,  
18 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
19 general election to be held in November 2016 and, in such case, will take  
20 effect on January 1, 2016, or on the date of the official declaration of the  
21 vote thereon by the governor, whichever is later.

22 <{Does committee want a different effective date? Applicability  
23 clause?}>

First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

9.17.14

BILL 2

Temporary storage location: S:\LLS\2015A\Bills\Pre-Draft\15-0102.wpd

LLS NO. 15-0102.01 Nicole Myers x4326

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

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**Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission**

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**BILL TOPIC: "Tax Credit For Early Childhood Education Providers"**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR CERTAIN**  
102             **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROVIDERS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billssummaries>.)*

**Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission.** For income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2015, the bill allows an income tax credit to a taxpayer who is an early childhood education provider if the taxpayer holds a Colorado early childhood professional credential issued by the Colorado department of

education and is either:

- Employed by a child care center that accepts children through the Colorado child care assistance program and has been employed at one such child care center for at least 6 months during the year for which the credit is claimed; or
- Is a family child care home provider who has held a family child care home license issued by the Colorado department of human services for at least 6 months when the credit is claimed and who has done business as a family child care home provider for at least 6 months during the year for which the credit is claimed.

The amount of the income tax credit allowed is:

- \$1,600 for a taxpayer who holds a level I Colorado early childhood professional credential;
- \$2,000 for a taxpayer who holds a level II Colorado early childhood professional credential; or
- \$2,500 for a taxpayer who holds a level III or higher Colorado early childhood professional credential.

Upon request by the department of revenue, a taxpayer who claims the income tax credit is required to submit proof that the child care center by which he or she is employed accepts children through the Colorado child care assistance program.

If the income tax credit allowed exceeds the amount of income taxes otherwise due on the taxpayer's income in the income tax year for which the credit is being claimed, the amount of the credit not used shall be refunded to the taxpayer.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 39-22-538 as  
3 follows:

4           **39-22-538. Credit for early childhood education providers.**

5 (1) (a) FOR INCOME TAX YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1,  
6 2015, A CREDIT AGAINST THE TAX IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE IS ALLOWED  
7 TO A TAXPAYER WHO IS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROVIDER AND  
8 WHO SATISFIES THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

9           (I) THE TAXPAYER HOLDS A COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD  
10 PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL ISSUED BY THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF

1 EDUCATION; AND

2 (II) THE TAXPAYER IS EITHER:

3 (A) EMPLOYED BY A CHILD CARE CENTER THAT ACCEPTS CHILDREN  
4 THROUGH THE COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CREATED IN  
5 PART 8 OF ARTICLE 2 OF TITLE 26, C.R.S., AND HAS BEEN EMPLOYED AT  
6 ONE SUCH CHILD CARE CENTER FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS DURING THE  
7 YEAR FOR WHICH THE CREDIT IS CLAIMED; OR

8 (B) IS A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME PROVIDER WHO HAS HELD A  
9 FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME LICENSE ISSUED BY THE COLORADO  
10 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 6 OF  
11 TITLE 26, C.R.S., FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS WHEN THE CREDIT IS CLAIMED  
12 AND WHO HAS DONE BUSINESS AS A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME PROVIDER  
13 FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS DURING THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE CREDIT IS  
14 CLAIMED.

15 (b) A TAXPAYER WHO SATISFIES THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN  
16 PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (1) MAY CLAIM AN INCOME TAX  
17 CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IN AN AMOUNT AS FOLLOWS:

18 (I) ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR A TAXPAYER WHO  
19 HOLDS A LEVEL ONE COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL  
20 CREDENTIAL;

21 (II) TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR A TAXPAYER WHO HOLDS A  
22 LEVEL TWO COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL;  
23 OR

24 (III) TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR A TAXPAYER  
25 WHO HOLDS A LEVEL THREE OR HIGHER COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD  
26 PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL.

27 (2) A TAXPAYER WHO IS EMPLOYED BY A CHILD CARE CENTER AND

1 WHO CLAIMS THE CREDIT ALLOWED IN THIS SECTION SHALL, UPON  
2 REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, SUBMIT PROOF THAT THE  
3 CHILD CARE CENTER ACCEPTS CHILDREN THROUGH THE COLORADO CHILD  
4 CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

5 (3) IF THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT ALLOWED IN THIS SECTION  
6 EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT OF INCOME TAXES OTHERWISE DUE ON THE  
7 TAXPAYER'S INCOME IN THE INCOME TAX YEAR FOR WHICH THE CREDIT IS  
8 BEING CLAIMED, THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT NOT USED AS AN OFFSET  
9 AGAINST INCOME TAXES IN THE CURRENT INCOME TAX YEAR SHALL BE  
10 REFUNDED TO THE TAXPAYER.

11 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
12 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
13 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
14 5, 2015, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2015); except that, if a  
15 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
16 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
17 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
18 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
19 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
20 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

LLS NO. 15-0102\_AMENDMENT # 1

INTERIM COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission.

BY REPRESENTATIVE McCann

LLS No. 15-0102 be amended as follows:

- 1 Amend LLS No. 15-0102, page 4, line 9, strike "SHALL BE".
  
- 2 Page 4, strike line 10 and substitute "MAY NOT BE ALLOWED AS A REFUND,
- 3 BUT MAY BE CARRIED FORWARD AND APPLIED AGAINST THE INCOME TAX
- 4 DUE IN EACH OF THE SUCCEEDING TEN INCOME TAX YEARS, BUT MUST
- 5 FIRST BE APPLIED AGAINST THE INCOME TAX DUE FOR THE EARLIEST
- 6 INCOME TAX YEAR."

\*\* \*\* \*\* \*\* \*\*

First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

9.17.14

**BILL 3**

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LLS NO. 15-0103.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL**

**Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission**

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**BILL TOPIC: "Early Childhood Educator Scholarships"**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING DISTRIBUTION OF MONEYS FOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS**  
102 **THAT ASSIST EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS IN**  
103 **OBTAINING POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS IN EARLY**  
104 **CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
105 **CREATING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT**  
106 **FUND.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/bills/summaries>.)*

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*



1 OFFERS GENERAL BACCALAUREATE DEGREES IN ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND  
2 THAT IS INSTITUTIONALLY ACCREDITED ON THE BASIS OF AN ON-SITE  
3 REVIEW IN COLORADO BY ONE OF THE SIX NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED  
4 REGIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATIONS OR BY AN ACCREDITING AGENCY  
5 DETERMINED BY THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO  
6 BE APPROPRIATE TO ITS EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AND PROGRAMS;

7 (b) A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN  
8 SECTION 23-18-102 (10), C.R.S.; OR

9 (c) A JUNIOR COLLEGE THAT IS PART OF A JUNIOR COLLEGE  
10 DISTRICT ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71 OF TITLE 23, C.R.S.

11 (4) "POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL" MEANS:

12 (a) A CERTIFICATE RECOGNIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
13 EDUCATION OR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES THAT LEADS TO  
14 CERTIFICATION AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHER OR  
15 PROGRAM DIRECTOR; OR

16 (b) AN ASSOCIATE, BACHELOR'S, OR HIGHER DEGREE IN EARLY  
17 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

18 (5) "QUALIFYING ENTITY" MEANS A NONPROFIT OR  
19 NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION THAT HOLDS TAX-EXEMPT STATUS UNDER  
20 26 U.S.C. SEC. 501 (c) (3) OF THE FEDERAL "INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF  
21 1986", AS AMENDED, OR AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

22 (6) "SCHOLARSHIP GRANT" MEANS MONEYS THAT THE STATE  
23 BOARD AWARDS TO A QUALIFYING ENTITY THAT THE QUALIFYING ENTITY  
24 MUST USE TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
25 PROFESSIONALS TO ASSIST THEM IN PAYING THE EDUCATION COSTS OF  
26 OBTAINING A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL IN EARLY CHILDHOOD  
27 EDUCATION.

1 (7) "STATE BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
2 CREATED IN SECTION 1 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

3 **22-9.7-102. Early childhood educator development fund -**  
4 **created.** (1) (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE EARLY  
5 CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT FUND CONSISTING OF MONEYS THE  
6 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY RECEIVE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)  
7 OF THIS SECTION AND MONEYS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY  
8 APPROPRIATE TO THE FUND. THE MONEYS IN THE FUND ARE SUBJECT TO  
9 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE  
10 DEPARTMENT TO DISTRIBUTE AS SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO QUALIFYING  
11 ENTITIES AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 22-9.7-103. IN ADDITION, THE  
12 DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND A PORTION OF THE MONEYS ANNUALLY  
13 APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND TO OFFSET THE ACTUAL DIRECT AND  
14 INDIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED IN DISTRIBUTING THE  
15 SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS, WHICH PORTION SHALL NOT EXCEED    
16 DOLLARS IN A BUDGET YEAR.

17 (b) THE STATE TREASURER MAY INVEST ANY MONEYS IN THE FUND  
18 NOT EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE AS PROVIDED BY LAW.  
19 THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED  
20 FROM THE INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF MONEYS IN THE FUND TO THE  
21 FUND. ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEYS REMAINING IN  
22 THE FUND AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR MUST REMAIN IN THE FUND AND  
23 SHALL NOT BE CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR  
24 ANOTHER FUND.

25 (2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SOLICIT, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND PUBLIC  
26 OR PRIVATE GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO USE TO AWARD  
27 SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO QUALIFYING ENTITIES AS PROVIDED IN SECTION

1 22-9.7-103, SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE  
2 GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS ARE GIVEN; EXCEPT THAT THE  
3 DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT ACCEPT A GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION IF THE  
4 CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION REQUIRE THE  
5 USE OR EXPENDITURE OF THE GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION IN A MANNER  
6 CONTRARY TO LAW. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSMIT TO THE STATE  
7 TREASURER ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO  
8 THIS SUBSECTION (2), AND THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT THE  
9 AMOUNTS TO THE FUND. IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ARTICLE IS NOT  
10 CONDITIONED ON THE RECEIPT OF GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS  
11 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2).

12 **22-9.7-103. Scholarship grants - qualifying entities - rules -**  
13 **report.** (1) (a) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE  
14 DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM QUALIFYING  
15 ENTITIES FOR SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS. AT THE TIME IT APPLIES, A  
16 QUALIFYING ENTITY MUST HAVE AN OPERATING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
17 THAT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
18 PROFESSIONALS TO ASSIST THEM IN ATTAINING A POSTSECONDARY  
19 CREDENTIAL IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. AN EARLY CHILDHOOD  
20 EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL WHO RECEIVES A SCHOLARSHIP THAT IS  
21 FUNDED BY MONEYS THAT A QUALIFYING ENTITY RECEIVES PURSUANT TO  
22 THIS SECTION MUST USE THE SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND AN INSTITUTION OF  
23 HIGHER EDUCATION.

24 (b) AFTER REVIEWING THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED, THE  
25 DEPARTMENT SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE STATE BOARD THE QUALIFYING  
26 ENTITIES THAT SHOULD RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AND THE AMOUNT  
27 OF EACH GRANT. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE STATE

1 BOARD SHALL ANNUALLY DISTRIBUTE MONEYS APPROPRIATED AND  
2 CREDITED TO THE FUND TO QUALIFYING ENTITIES, TAKING INTO  
3 CONSIDERATION THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

4 (2) THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES TO ESTABLISH,  
5 AT A MINIMUM:

6 (a) THE PROCEDURES AND TIMELINES BY WHICH A QUALIFYING  
7 ENTITY MAY APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP GRANT;

8 (b) THE CRITERIA THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPLY IN  
9 REVIEWING THE GRANT APPLICATIONS AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS  
10 TO THE STATE BOARD AND THAT THE STATE BOARD SHALL APPLY IN  
11 AWARDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS. AT A MINIMUM, THE CRITERIA MUST  
12 INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER AN APPLICANT'S SCHOLARSHIP  
13 PROGRAM ALIGNS WITH THE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL  
14 DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES SET BY THE DEPARTMENT.

15 (c) THE INFORMATION THAT EACH QUALIFYING ENTITY THAT  
16 RECEIVES A SCHOLARSHIP GRANT MUST SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT TO  
17 ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO PREPARE THE ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT.

18 (3) FOR EACH YEAR THAT IT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS, THE  
19 DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE STATE BOARD, THE GOVERNOR, AND  
20 THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND  
21 THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE, A REPORT THAT INCLUDES,  
22 AT A MINIMUM:

23 (a) THE NAME OF EACH QUALIFYING ENTITY THAT RECEIVED A  
24 SCHOLARSHIP GRANT, THE AMOUNT OF EACH SCHOLARSHIP GRANT, AND  
25 THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS DISTRIBUTED FOR THE  
26 FISCAL YEAR;

27 (b) A DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS THAT

1 RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF EARLY  
2 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS,  
3 THE AMOUNTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS, AND THE POSTSECONDARY  
4 CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS IN WHICH THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS  
5 ENROLLED; AND

6 (c) THE TOTAL NUMBER AND TYPE OF POSTSECONDARY  
7 CREDENTIALS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION THAT WERE ISSUED FOR  
8 THE FISCAL YEAR AND, OF THE CREDENTIALS ISSUED, THE NUMBER AND  
9 TYPE THAT WERE FUNDED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS.

10 <{Sen. Todd: would you prefer a safety clause or a 90-day petition  
11 clause?}>



LLS No. 15-0103/BILL 3 \_AMENDMENT #1  
INTERIM COMMITTEE AMENDMENT  
Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission

BY SENATOR Todd

LLS No. 15-0103/Bill 3 be amended as follows:

- 1 Amend LLS No. 15-0103/Bill 3, page 4, strike lines 15 and 16 and
- 2 substitute "SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS."
  
- 3 Page 4, line 25, strike "SOLICIT, ACCEPT," and substitute "ACCEPT".

\*\* \*\*\* \*\* \*\* \*

First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

9.17.14

BILL 4

Temporary storage location: S:\LLS\2015A\Bills\Pre-Draft\15-0104.wpd

LLS NO. 15-0104.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

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**Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission**

---

**BILL TOPIC: "Increasing Number Of CO Preschool Program Students"**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN**  
102             **THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AS PRESCHOOL**  
103             **STUDENTS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/bills/summaries>.)*

**Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission.** The statute currently authorizes funding for 20,160 children to participate in the Colorado preschool program as half-time or full-time preschool students. In addition, the statute authorizes funding for 8,200

children as Colorado preschool program students or as full-day kindergarten students, when combined with a school district's other funding for kindergarten students. The bill funds an additional 3,000 children only as half-time or full-time preschool students.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-28-104, **amend**  
3 (2) (a) (III); and **add** (2) (a) (IV) and (2) (a) (V) as follows:

4           **22-28-104. Establishment of public preschool programs.**

5 (2) (a) (III) For the 2008-09 budget year and each budget year thereafter  
6 THROUGH THE 2013-14 BUDGET YEAR, twenty thousand one hundred sixty  
7 children may annually participate in the Colorado preschool program.

8           (IV) FOR THE 2013-14 AND 2014-15 BUDGET YEARS, TWENTY  
9 THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY CHILDREN, IN ADDITION TO THE NUMBER  
10 OF CHILDREN AUTHORIZED IN SECTION 22-28-104.3, MAY ANNUALLY  
11 PARTICIPATE IN THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM.

12           (V) FOR THE 2015-16 BUDGET YEAR AND EACH BUDGET YEAR  
13 THEREAFTER, TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY CHILDREN,  
14 IN ADDITION TO THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AUTHORIZED IN SECTION  
15 22-28-104.3, MAY ANNUALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL  
16 PROGRAM.

17           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-28-104.3, **amend**  
18 (1) (a) as follows:

19           **22-28-104.3. Early childhood at-risk enhancement (ECARE).**

20 (1) (a) ~~Notwithstanding~~ IN ADDITION TO the number of children who may  
21 annually participate in the Colorado preschool program pursuant to  
22 section 22-28-104 (2) (a):

23           (I) For the 2013-14 budget year, an additional three thousand two

1 hundred children may participate in the Colorado preschool program. for  
2 a total of twenty-three thousand three hundred sixty children who may  
3 participate in the Colorado preschool program for the 2013-14 budget  
4 year.

5 (II) For the 2014-15 budget year and each budget year thereafter,  
6 an additional ~~five~~ EIGHT thousand TWO HUNDRED children may annually  
7 participate in the Colorado preschool program. for a total of twenty-eight  
8 thousand three hundred sixty children who may annually participate in the  
9 Colorado preschool program.

10 <{Rep. Pettersen: would you prefer a safety clause or a 90-day petition  
11 clause?}>





General Assembly  
State of Colorado  
Denver

September 22, 2014

Dear Members of the Joint Budget Committee:

We, the members of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission, write to respectfully request that the General Assembly annually appropriate \$2.2 million General Fund to the Colorado Department of Human Services to fund family support and parent education services at the state's Family Resource Centers.

This request for \$2.2 million in state funding will increase the number of families that can be served, and specifically provide:

- additional professional staff at Family Resource Centers to increase the number of families that receive coordinated case management services from 2,500 to 5,000 families annually;
- resources for the implementation of quality standards, tracking and reporting of family outcomes, and training and technical assistance for Family Resource Center staff; and
- support for an ongoing project fostering statewide cooperation between Family Resource Centers, the Early Childhood Councils, child care resource and referral agencies, and other early childhood organizations to efficiently provide family support and parent education, and avoid duplication of services.

The Family Resource Center Act (Section 26-18-101, C.R.S.) established the Family Resource Center program in 1993 to provide community-based support services to vulnerable families and children. Each year, Family Resource Centers serve over 56,000 Colorado families by linking them to the services that meet their immediate needs. In 2000, state funding for the Family Resource Centers was eliminated. At that time, the Family Resource Center Association was formed to support the centers and leverage resources. Currently, Family Resource Centers are funded through a variety of sources including private foundation grants, competitive state and federal program grants, and fundraising efforts. In July 2013, the Family Resource Center program was moved from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to the Office of Early Childhood in the Colorado Department of Human Services.

State law requires that Family Resource Centers utilize a coordinated case management service delivery approach. Despite scarce state funding since 2000, about 2,500 families are annually served with sufficient intensity to track progress. Data collected on families served over the past six years show that coordinated case management services result in statistically significant progress towards stability in several family well-being indicators, including:

- adult education, employment, and finances;
- child care and child education;

- food, health coverage, and substance abuse;
- housing, transportation, and utility assistance; and
- parenting skills.

Please know that we appreciate the Joint Budget Committee's ongoing efforts to prioritize state funding and programs that meet the needs of Coloradans. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this appropriation request in more detail with you, and explore ways to foster greater collaboration between the Colorado Department of Human Services and counties in coordinating services that result in financial security and resiliency for the families served. Thank you for taking the time to consider our request.

Sincerely,

Representative Brittany Pettersen  
Chair, Early Childhood and School Readiness  
Legislative Commission

c: Anna Jo Haynes, Co-chair, Early Childhood Leadership Commission  
Barb Grogan, Co-chair, Early Childhood Leadership Commission  
John Ziegler, Staff Director, Joint Budget Committee Staff  
Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia, Co-chair, Early Childhood Leadership Commission  
Mark Kling, Executive Director, Family Resource Center Association  
Reggie Bicha, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Human Services  
Representative Dianne Primavera, Chair, House Public Health and Human Services Committee  
Senator Irene Aguilar, Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee