



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 15, 2025

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## **“Enormous Risk”: DLC Urges Lawmakers to Protect Children from Federal Cuts**

**Denver, CO** — In a hearing at the State Capitol this week, **Disability Law Colorado** will call on legislators to take decisive action to protect children from federal cuts.

Testifying before the Colorado Senate Education Committee on **Wednesday, April 16**, DLC Co-Legal Director **Emily Harvey** will propose a new civil rights act for students with disabilities. DLC’s request comes as the Trump administration dismantles the U.S. Department of Education.

“The loss of federal protection puts children with disabilities at enormous risk,” Harvey said. “As Washington abdicates its responsibilities, Colorado must act.”

Under current law, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights has the authority to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, among other federal statutes. But deep cuts make that office ill-equipped to resolve complaints or to provide technical assistance or training.

The result: students with disabilities will have fewer avenues for relief from bullying, discrimination, and other civil rights violations. DLC’s proposal would authorize the state to step in, by investigating complaints; requiring schools to take corrective action; and training students, families, and school personnel on their rights and responsibilities.

Wednesday’s hearing — which will include federal officials and Colorado Education Commissioner Susana Cordova — will take place at **1:30 pm in Senate Committee Room 357**. The hearing will also be *livestreamed* on the legislature’s audio channel.

**Contact DLC Communications Manager Felix Ortiz to schedule an interview with Emily Harvey.**

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***Disability Law Colorado** is a nonprofit civil rights organization, authorized by federal law to combat discrimination, abuse, and neglect. We aim to make Colorado the best place in America for people with disabilities to work and thrive. For more information, visit [disabilitylawco.org](http://disabilitylawco.org).*