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Colorado Senate Committee to Hear Bill Protecting Students With Disabilities

Legislation would strengthen state enforcement of disability rights in public schools

DENVER, CO — Colorado lawmakers will consider [Senate Bill 26-125](#), Disability Rights Protections in Public Schools, this **Wednesday, March 11 at 1:30 PM in SCR 357** at the State Capitol. The legislation would strengthen protections for students with disabilities by codifying key standards from Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act into Colorado law and establishing a state level complaint process through the Colorado Department of Education. **Emily Harvey, Co-Legal Director at Disability Law Colorado**, is scheduled to testify in support of the bill Wednesday. More than 160,000 Colorado students with disabilities will have additional protections if this bill becomes law.

“Colorado cannot rely on shrinking federal oversight to protect students,” Harvey said. “This bill ensures families have a clear and reliable path to resolve problems quickly so students can stay focused on learning.”

“When students with disabilities cannot get the support they need at school, the consequences follow them for years,” said **Nicole Bishop**, a licensed clinical social worker, disability advocate with a disability, and parent of a child with a disability. “Families deserve to know their child’s rights will be respected and that there is somewhere to turn if problems arise.”

“This legislation gives Colorado the tools it needs to protect students and support schools before problems escalate,” said **Madeleine Ashour, Director of K-12 Education Policy at the Colorado Children’s Campaign**. “When disability rights are enforced early and consistently, students get the services they need and schools can avoid costly disputes.”

About the bill:

Senate Bill 26-125 establishes a state level complaint process through the Colorado Department of Education and reinforces key federal disability protections in Colorado law. A complete summary of the bill can be found [here](#).

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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 thrive. For more information, visit disabilitylawco.org.

At the **Colorado Children’s Campaign**, we use data and research to identify what kids across our state need most, then advocate for policies that strengthen their well-being and help them thrive. Our focus is the whole child, working across Early Childhood, K-12 Education, Health, and Economic Security for the greatest long-term impact.