



## SB25-117 | MEASURES TO SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH

**STATUS:** Introduced in Colorado State Senate, assigned to the Health and Human Services Committee. The bill's next hearing is scheduled for February 12, 2025.

**SPONSORS:** Sen. Lisa Cutter (D), Sen Iman Jodeh (D), Rep. Junie Joseph (D), Rep Yara Zokaie (D)

**SUMMARY:** The bill advances early childhood health priorities in Colorado by strengthening and codifying two existing community-based programs (Child Care Health Consultants and HealthySteps) as state programs within the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC).

- **Child Care Health Consultation Program:** these programs will consult with early childhood programs to ensure health and safety, support teachers, and improve the quality of care children receive. Beginning on July 1, 2026, CDEC and its contractor must create a model of child care health consultation and a professional development plan for child healthcare consultants.
- **Pediatric primary care practice program:** this program will provide support to parents of children ages birth-3 in the interest of the child's healthy development. It provides tiered services for children and families through the integration of trained child development experts into clinical care teams, including care coordination. Beginning August 15, 2025, CDEC and its contractor must create and implement a model program that guides pediatric primary care practices to deliver services to children from ages birth-3.

**FISCAL NOTES:** The bill has the potential to increase state revenue to CDEC for the new programs from gifts, grants, or donations, but no sources have been identified. For fiscal year 2025-2026, the bill requires an appropriation of \$2.9 million to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood.

**SUPPORT:** American Academy of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, Colorado Children's Alliance, Colorado Children's Campaign, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, Delta Dental of Colorado, Denver Health, Florence Crittenton Services, Healthier Colorado, Illuminate Colorado, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, The Women's Foundation of Colorado, UC Health

**OPPOSITION:** No currently registered opposition

### PROS

- This bill provides a key mechanism for federal, state, and local resource investment into early childhood health.
- Child care health consultants work with early childhood providers to meet families in community-based settings where they already seek services and support. These are critical supports for early childhood providers.
- HealthySteps is a key community support with 32 sites that serve over 38,000 children in Colorado. Codifying their work as a state program will expand access to this program.

### CONS

- The bill requires an appropriation of \$2.9 million to CDEC.