

House Education
03/18/2021 1:30 PM
Testimony - HB21-1006 Fifth-day School Enrichment Programs Funding

Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Text of Testimony
	Kelly	Pointer	Against	Self	<p>Senators, Good afternoon. The past year has brought forward many challenges for Colorado's students, teachers, school administrators, and parents. I am a parent of two high school children. I am against HB21-1006 (Fifth day enrichment programs funding). This bill would not be necessary if Colorado schools were funded properly (instead of ranking 40th in the United States for per pupil funding). The bill text notes that "...COLORADO HAS MORE SCHOOLS ON A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE COUNTRY; ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN OF COLORADO'S ONE HUNDRED and SEVENTY-EIGHT SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE ON A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; MANY SCHOOL DISTRICTS MADE THE DECISION TO MOVE TO A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK TO ADDRESS BUDGET CONCERNS AND RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STATE SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT IN KINDERGARTEN-THROUGH-TWELFTH-GRADE FUNDING IN ORDER TO MOVE TOWARD A RETURN TO A FIVE-DAY SCHOOL WEEK..." Schools and parents do not want to be on a 4 day school week schedule. What is being done at the State level in order to help move these school districts and students back to a 5 day a week school schedule? I cannot support a bill that takes funding away from a 5 day school week goal. This past year has shown how critical 5 day school week in-person learning is. I agree that ALL school-aged children should have needed supports; however, this bill is not the way to accomplish that. Please consider opposing HB21-1006. Thank you for your time and consideration. Kelly Pointer</p>
MR.	RICHARD	JOHNSON	Against	Self	<p>I am writing in opposition to HB 21-1006, Fifth-day School Enrichment Program Funding - The bill creates the fifth-day academic enrichment and support grant program (program) to award grants to one or more eligible community-based nonprofit organizations to provide supplemental educational programs to full-day kindergarten through high school-aged children on the fifth day of the week for children in schools that have a 4-day school week. Because of underfunding, half of Colorado's 174 school districts have been forced to move to a 4 day school week to save money. The funding for this bill would need to come from somewhere. So, not only is this voucher bill likely to further reduce public education funding, it will further reduce funding to school districts that were forced to go to a 4 day school week due to lack of funding. This is simply nonsense.</p>
Mrs.	LOIS	JOHNSON	Against	Self	<p>HB21-1006 Fifth-day School Enrichment Program Funding - This voucher bill creates the fifth-day academic enrichment and support program to award grants to eligible community-based nonprofit organizations to provide supplemental educational programs to full-day kindergarten through high school-aged children on the fifth day of the week for children in schools that have a 4-day school week. This bill states that grants must be used: 1.to provide supplemental educational programming to support students' academic development on the fifth day of a 4-day school week, 2.to provide meals for students attending the program, and 3.to acquire educational materials and necessary technology to provide supplemental educational programming. What? Why not just fund our public schools sufficiently, so that those 174 Colorado school districts forced to move to a four-day school week to save money can go back to a five-day school week for their students, and do those things in the grant requirements they are now doing for their students four days a week. The bill creates a fund from which to pay program grants, consisting of money appropriated or transferred to the fund by the general assembly, but the state board of education awards program grants, so not only is this voucher bill likely to further reduce public education funding, it will further reduce funding to school districts that were forced to go to a 4-day school week due to lack of funding in the first place! This bill is absurd, except to those whose strategy is to eventually starve public schools with vouchers and private charters publicly funded. I write in urgent opposition to HB 21-1006.</p>

Witness Signup List

					<p>Hello Chairperson and Committee Members,</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony today regarding HB 21-1006. This bill is very concerning to me as a parent because it redirects public education funds away from public schools. Although well intentioned, it would be too easy to manipulate this program into the Voucher system that we have fought so hard to prevent in our state. Voucher programs are particularly concerning to me because of their attempt to re-direct public funds to private institutions, religious organizations, and even directly to unscrupulous people. As a former Oklahoman, I have seen first-hand the tricks that people will use to pull money out of public education for their own gain- and the damage that the funding cuts cause to all students.</p> <p>If there are programs that need to be included as part of our public education, then we need to work through the established processes within the Department of Education and School Board to add them to our schools and ensure equitable access to ALL students.</p> <p>Please vote NO on this bill.</p> <p>Regards, Sarah Wu</p>
	Sarah	Wu	Against	Self	
					<p>As the CEO of a non-profit foundation, Sims-Fayola Foundation, that focuses on improving the life outcomes of young men and boys of color, I am fully aware of how actions and systems can impact vulnerable communities. Even when an action like going to a 4-day school week because of financial constraints is a legitimate solution, historical obstructions and lack of access play a major role in how that decision will impact vulnerable communities, particularly communities of color. House Bill 21-1006 is a proactive measure that is considerate of the impact of a 4-day school week on already vulnerable communities. There is considerable research on the impact of a 4-day week on low-income communities and how it only exacerbates an already strained community. HB21-1006 would allow organizations like ours to continue to provide both academic and recreational services in these cases. With the world paying more attention to the effects of systemic inequities, I think this bill will go a long way in the execution of a practical solution that pushes back on inequities.</p>
	Dedrick	Sims	For	Self	

HB21-1006 Testimony
March 18, 2021

My name is Kristen Norton and I am an elementary teacher, the UNICEF USA Advocacy Lead for Colorado, and a newly enrolled graduate student at the Colorado School of Public Health. I have additional background in social work and public health, both in low-income and affluent communities. I am testifying in favor of HB21-1006 as a reflection of my own personal views. While schools are indeed tasked with educating students on an academic level, one of the most vital aspects of human progress, they also house and represent opportunities to provide some of the most fundamental human rights to our children. These include, but are not limited to, healthcare, psychosocial support, safety, and nutrition. In the event that a school district can only provide 4-day school weeks, students suffer a 20% reduction in these crucial services. In low-income communities, I have witnessed the negative effects of this in an overwhelmingly disproportionate manner. Families are often comprised of adults who must work outside the home and in order to maintain an income, are not physically able to be present for their children on the fifth day of the week. Additionally, educational and technological resources in these homes are often lacking or nonexistent, compounding the educational losses that these students are already suffering. From a teacher's standpoint, I can assure that this is incredibly consequential. This bill would provide non-profit organizations who are already familiar with their communities an opportunity to ensure these students receive the fifth day of services, all of which are *fundamental human rights*. These organizations, accountable to their local school districts, can serve as vital partners who commit to preventing gaps these students would otherwise experience and empower them to succeed and grow into the community members we need them to become...the community members they have a *right* to become. This bill would alleviate additional stressors for families, teachers, administrators, and the students themselves, while in-turn opening the door to enriching partnerships within communities who need them the most. I believe this investment in our state's children would ensure the return of a stronger future for all of us.