

Testimony for SB 4 "Funding for Full Day Kindergarten":

My name is Jennifer Granbery and I have three students in Jefferson County public schools. I have a 5th grader, a 3rd grader and a 1st grader this year. Full-day kindergarten was amazing for us and also broke our bank account. We are not in the days of play and nap anymore. My kids, in a full-day kindergarten classroom, learned reading, math, social science, and social skills at such levels they were ready for 1st grade. While half-day kinder is supposed to accomplish the same things, it is impossible in 2 ½ hours. Our half-day kinder kids are not even in school for a true half-day. Bringing kinder students to full-day status insures all students have the ability to function in 1st grade, not just those who can afford the \$300 a month tab. It is difficult for any family to make the equivalent of an extra car payment for the 10 months their kinder student is in school. We have paid for all three of our children to go to full-day kindergarten to the tune of \$9000. Let me repeat, we paid \$9000 to have not only the level of education our children deserve, but is also required by the State. We did not have that kind of disposable income but scraped by to ensure our kids were on level for 1st grade.

Colorado has the money. Colorado has a surplus which should be used for our kids, should be used for all kids. Not having to pay \$300 a month for kindergarten would have allowed for me to invest in all three of my kids. The money saved could have been used for after school activities, sports teams and creative art instruction. My kids were prepared and ready for 1st grade with full instruction instead of a rushed 2 ½ hour, incomplete instruction. It came at a cost. While we were able to figure it out, many Coloradans can not and should not have to suffer financially for their kids to get the education they deserve. The education they need and are expected to achieve under Colorado standards.

The expectations for our kindergarteners cannot be achieved without funding. Colorado is woefully behind in funding education, but kindergartens especially. We, as a State, should be ashamed we have not funded our kids fully before 2018. This bill not only gives the opportunity to finally fund our kindergartens as full students, but make the educational experience of our kindergartens equal. All kindergarteners, regardless of their parent's pay check, will have the same

opportunities. \angle $\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day is not enough. Half-day kinder is not enough. We have the opportunity with this bill to make it right, as early as this Fall. The money is there, and you have the ability with this bill to fund the required and deserved education of all of the students in Colorado. It is time to put education first.

Thank you.

Jennifer Granbery