



800 GRANT STREET, STE. 200
DENVER, CO 80203

M. 303.860.6000
info@parentpossible.org

parentpossible.org

Senate Education Committee
Colorado State Capitol

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee;

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB22-037: Tony Grampas Youth Services Program. Parent Possible is the state intermediary for two evidence-based home visiting models and a TGYS grantee. The funds we receive through TGYS allow us to support parents of young children in order to reduce child abuse and neglect while promoting school readiness. TGYS's commitment to prevention in the early years is an important strategy for reducing the risk factors that could lead to interactions with the juvenile justice system later on. We are proud to be a part of their early childhood strategy.

The proposed changes to the TGYS program will address several issues, including ensuring compliance with a Supreme Court decision. However, we believe the most important provisions in the bill is centered on spending authority and the elimination of the term "at-risk." Allowing TGYS funds to roll forward and providing spending authority will allow the TGYS staff and board to all better plan for the three-year grant cycle while also addressing emergent needs in communities statewide. This means that the TGYS staff can make changes and shift funds to meet the needs of Colorado's children and youth.

Additionally, we want to applaud the TGYS staff and Senator Moreno and Representative Tipper for their commitment to equity and inclusion through the elimination of terms, such as "at-risk" that marginalize youth and families. TGYS grantees see this commitment throughout the grant cycle – equity is a clear goal and TGYS staff and board continually work to promote equitable practices through their work and through opportunities for training and education provided to their grantees.

The proposed changes to TGYS will strengthen the program, promote equity, and bring the program in compliance with federal law. Parent Possible urges you to support SB22-037.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Tritten", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Heather Tritten
Executive Director