



February 1, 2022

Public Health and Behavioral Health and Human Services Committee

Madam Chair and members of this committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB-1052 Promoting Crisis Services to Students.

My name is Patty Boyd. I am a retired public health professional representing the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado (SPCC) as the Advocacy Committee Co-Chair. The mission of the SPCC is to reduce suicide and its impact for all Coloradans through advocacy, collaboration and education. Working together. Working statewide. Working to make a difference. SPCC works with its network of organizations and individuals to ensure everyone in Colorado has access to the best resources, educational opportunities and advocacy efforts.

Suicide is, sadly, the leading cause of death for Colorado's youth ages 10 to 24. This bill would target this younger population which we know is at high risk.

HB-1052 mandates the addition of the Colorado Crisis Services hotline to student ID cards. This would encourage students to reach out for mental health help when needed. Seeing this resource on a regular basis would perhaps break down stigma often associated with getting help. We know that the word "crisis" can get in the way of an individual seeking assistance. The goal is early intervention and hopefully to avoid a "crisis".

Suicide is preventable. This bill offers an opportunity to normalize mental health for our youth and prevent suicide.

I hope you will vote in favor of HB-1052. Thank you.