



Colorado Early Childhood Summit

A Coalition of Statewide Leaders in Early Childhood Care and Education

April 23, 2010

Colorado Alliance for
Quality School Age
Programs

Colorado Association for
the Education of Young
Children

Colorado Association of
Family Child Care

Colorado Children's
Campaign

Colorado Division for
Early Childhood

Colorado Head Start
Association

Colorado PTA

Early Childhood Education
Association of Colorado

Early Childhood Council
Leadership Alliance

Qualistar Early Learning

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Colorado House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committee
Representative Jim Riesberg, Chair
Representative Sara Gagliardi, Vice-Chair

The Colorado Early Childhood Summit strongly supports **Senate Bill-195 - Concerning Creation of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission**. As a coalition of statewide leaders in Early Childhood Care and Education, we believe that the creation of an early childhood leadership commission is essential to advancing a comprehensive service delivery system for children birth to 8 years of age. Too many Colorado families lack access to the quality early childhood supports and services essential to ensure safe and stable families, positive health outcomes and excellent student achievement.

The Commission's focus on promoting and improving data driven decision-making and strengthening the alignment and coordination of federal and state funded services will improve outcomes for our youngest children and their families. Furthermore, we believe the diverse and high level membership of this Commission will help move our state forward in developing the infrastructure necessary to ensure all Colorado children are valued, healthy and thriving.

The Summit represents public and private child care teachers, center owners, administrators, special educators, child care home providers, educational institutions, Head Start programs, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, school-age programs, children and parents, as well as others who care about Colorado's children and families. The Summit has been a resource to the General Assembly for nearly two decades.

By supporting this bill, Colorado Legislators will demonstrate a real commitment to supporting the healthy development of young children and their readiness for school. The Summit asks for a Yes vote on SB-195. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paula Neth
Summit Co-Chair

Elizabeth Groginsky
Summit Co-Chair