



Written Testimony in Support of HB 09-1099

The Civic Canopy **supports** HB 09-1099.

Currently, the Civic Canopy is staffing and supporting the Colorado Youth Advisory Council (COYAC). We are providing staff support, fundraising, and the organizational infrastructure important to the success of the Council. HB 09-1099 will allow COYAC to formally contract with us – or another organization, if they choose – to provide that essential organizational function.

COYAC Key Successes

You received COYAC's first Annual Report at the end of January, which outlined the Council's progress to date. Highlights include:

- COYAC has met twice. Our first organizational meeting was held in Colorado Springs, on October 31 and November 1. Our second meeting took place here at the Capitol and at the Colorado Municipal League, on January 26. Our third meeting is scheduled for April 6.
- COYAC has created a membership application to recruit future members, as required by the enacting legislation.
- COYAC has focused, in its first meetings, on establishing a solid organizational infrastructure and decision-making guidelines. The Council has elected officers, created working committees, and determined a procedure to make policy decisions as a group. They are now poised to delve more deeply into policy issues.
- Initial policy areas of interest include state environmental education standards and standardized testing.
- COYAC has raised nearly \$60,000 to date to support its work. Funders include the El Pomar Foundation, which gave us a start-up grant of \$30,000, BP America, The Children's Hospital, La Plata Electric Association, Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, Xcel Energy, Aponte & Busam, Rocky Mountain Health Plans, and the League of Women Voters.

The Civic Canopy

The Civic Canopy is a nonprofit organization comprised of an inclusive network of partners working together to build stronger neighborhoods, healthier communities and to strengthen civic engagement.

