



Colorado's State Advisory  
Council for Early Childhood

July 10, 2017

**Co-Chairs:**  
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Dr. Reed:

Thank you so much for your leadership on HB17-1003 – Strategic Plan to Address Teacher Shortages.

Robert Mitchell and Kachina Weaver provided a great overview of the need for educators, particularly in our rural communities, at our Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) meeting in June. We are pleased to hear that early childhood educators will be included in the strategic plan.

The ECLC, Colorado's state advisory council on early childhood, recently endorsed Colorado's Early Childhood Workforce 2020 Plan, attached. Developed by providers, educators, and parents from around the state, the plan has a strong emphasis on recruiting, retaining, compensating, and supporting the early childhood workforce.

This work, along with extensive research in local communities on salary, benefits, and turnover rates, demonstrates tremendous need for early childhood educators throughout Colorado. While shortages remain a significant problem in public early learning settings, we ask that the report also include reference to community-based early learning settings, which are facing enormous staffing challenges as well.

We encourage you to utilize the EC Workforce 2020 Plan, as well as the attached Early Childhood Sector Economic Analysis documents and forthcoming Colorado-specific early childhood workforce research briefs, to inform the Strategic Plan.

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission is happy to assist in any way – please let us know how we can be engaged with the Strategic Plan development and provide input and guidance from early childhood stakeholders throughout Colorado.

Thank you for leading this important work!

Sincerely,

Barbara Grogan  
ECLC Co-Chair

Anna Jo Haynes  
ECLC Co-Chair