

Senate Education

02/17/2022 01:30 PM

SB22-071 Learning Pods For Home-school Programs

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Kevin Vick Against Colorado Education Association</p>	<p>Good Afternoon, Madam Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee. My name is Kevin Vick. I am a high school social studies teacher and Vice President of the Colorado Education Association representing 39,000 educators across the state of Colorado. I am here today to speak in opposition to SB 22-071, as introduced.</p> <p>This bill would allow students in non-public, home-based education to receive all or a portion of their education through a learning pod. Because learning pods happen outside of the public school system, there is very little oversight for these programs. Families obviously have the right to choose this type of education for their children but that choice does not mean public resources should be attached to it.</p> <p>SB 22-71 ties itself to SB 22-039 which establishes the Hope Scholarship Program to assist eligible children with certain educational expenses, including tuition or fees at a nonpublic school and costs for home-based educational programs. This scholarship program is funded from public dollars, making it a voucher. The Colorado Education Association has been consistent in it's opposition to vouchers, in any form.</p> <p>Vouchers contribute to the instability of public education. This will, ultimately, reduce school budgets. And regardless of the quality of education these learning pods may or may not provide, increasing the funds available for some students is not an equitable approach to supporting the schools all students deserve. In the end, this is another scheme to take from the many and give to the few.</p> <p>More resources going to schools in general will allow schools to make a difference for the most students. Addressing the educator recruitment and retention shortage head on by dedicating funds to pay educators a livable wage, will make a difference for our students.</p>

	On behalf of the Colorado Education Association, we ask that you vote no on SB 22-071.
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