

Senate Education

03/02/2022 Upon Adjournment

SB22-087 Healthy Meals For All Public School Students

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Angelica Givler For Self	<p>Madame Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for taking the time to read my statement in favor of SB22-087. My name is Dr. Angelica Givler, and I represent teachers and parents.</p> <p>During my 15 years in education, I have worked in a variety of schools, states, districts, and all with varying socioeconomic statuses. I have witnessed parents refuse to fill out the free lunch form because they are embarrassed to need the assistance. In turn, I have witnessed kids go hungry. While Covid has caused much harm in our lives, the introduction of free meals for all students is one of the positives.</p> <p>Students in my school are able to grab breakfast and lunch for free every day without fear of judgment. Their parents have one less thing to worry about during these most difficult times. Kids are able to focus better when they start the day with breakfast. They are able to finish the afternoon stronger because they do not focus on how hungry they are. Students in my school utilize this program in abundance.</p> <p>As a mother, I have utilized the program every day since it has become available. I do not qualify for free lunch under previous guidelines. However, as a teacher and single mother, I could not afford to pay for school lunch. I was always stressed about what I could pack for my boys that would be healthy, filling, without allergens that would impact other children, and they would eat cold. Finding the time to pack the lunches was another stress and when it was getting close to the end of groceries it always made for an adventure.</p> <p>This bill would help parents and students across the state. Children should not have to go hungry. Parents should not feel guilty or embarrassed for needing assistance to feed their children. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill to ensure that we provide for the children in our state.</p>

	<p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Rita Sosa-Hunt For Self</p>	<p>Hello, thank you for allowing my testimony. My name is Rita Sosa-Hunt and I am in support of SB22-087. I live in Pueblo and my children have always had free school meals because our district (district 60) falls under the Community Eligibility Provision program.</p> <p>I have a high school freshman and a senior and they have grown up with friends from all economic levels. The beauty of the system of free meals, here in Pueblo, is that all of the kids get free lunch, no matter if they're rich or poor. Can you imagine growing up through one's school years, sharing lunch together, without stigma or worry of being able to afford school food? It has been great for this city and its families.</p> <p>Not only will this help children, but, it will help parents. Parents who work and still worry about having enough money to pay for school lunches, as well as, parents who worry that if they can't afford that week's worth of lunch for their child and know that they will go hungry all day while trying to learn.</p> <p>Thank you for hearing/reading my story and stance. I urge you to pass this bill for the people of Colorado. I firmly believe that all of our state deserves this.</p>
<p>Nallely Antunez For Self</p>	<p>Originally written in spanish:</p> <p>Hola hoy vengo hablar por que apoyo la ley SB22-087 comidas saludables .</p> <p>Bueno como mamá de dos niños en dps e tenido la oportunidad de asistir a la hora de la comida en la escuela de mi niña, todo esto antes del COVID.</p> <p>En lo personal me tocó ver como varios niños pagaban por su comida . De encho en una ocasión me tocó ver como un niño había perdido su dinero . Y creo que ningún niño se debe enfrentar a una cituacion donde no sabes si te darán tu comida por que extraviaste tu dinero .</p> <p>Y sobre todo a mi en lo personal me angustiaba saber si mi hijo recibiría comida gratis el solo pensar que si un día no tengo para pagar su comida es frustrante solo de pensarlo .</p> <p>Por eso apoyo esta ley para que ningún padre se preocupe sobre la alimentación cuando sus niños están en la escuela y ningun niño se quede con hambre.</p> <p>English:</p>

	<p>I support SB22-087 healthy meals. As a mother of two children in DPS, I had the opportunity to attend lunch at my daughter's school before COVID.</p> <p>Personally, I have seen how several children pay for their food. On one occasion I had to see how a child had lost his money. And I believe that no child should face a situation where they do not know if they will give you your food because you lost your money.</p> <p>I was anguished just thinking that if one day I do not have the money to pay for his food but also do not qualify for free and reduced lunch, it is frustrating just to think about it. I never want my child or any child to go hungry.</p> <p>That is why I support this law so that no parents worry about feeding their children while they are in school and no child is left hungry.</p>
<p>Eddie Woolfolk For Community Outreach Service Center (Five Points)</p>	<p>My name is Eddie M. Woolfolk, Executive Director of the Community Outreach Service Center (COSC) located at 2515 California St., Denver, Co. COSC is a ministry of Agape Christian Church.</p> <p>We have provided meal for kids for over 15 years through our community kitchen and the summer feeding program.</p> <p>Our program would start at 8:30 in the morning and end after lunch. We starting providing lunches only. One day after the kids arrived, one little start to cry, I asked what was wrong and she proceeded to tell me that she was hungry. Other kids came to me and repeated the same, that they were hungry also. From that day forward, we begin preparing breakfast as well as lunch for the kids. We became aware of the fact that kids were coming to programs and going to school hungry.</p> <p>Free meals for all kids is a need now. Many parents in my community and others, do not have the funds to provide lunches nor breakfast for their kids. I believe a child can achieve more with a full stomach.</p> <p>Prices at the grocery have tripled since the pandemic and therefore continue leave many in this USA going to bed without being properly fed.</p> <p>We can do better and we must do better. I never believed that I would live to see the day in America that we would see our seed begging for bread. Please vote yes on Senate Bill</p> <p>Eddie M. Woolfolk</p>