



TO: Senate Education Committee Chair Sen. Janet Buckner, Senate Education Committee Vice Chair Sen. Janice Marchman, Sen. Mark Baisley, Sen. Rhonda Fields, Sen. Chris Kolker, Sen. Paul Lundeen, and Sen. Janice Rich

April 24, 2023 **HB23- 1263 Translating Individualized Education Programs** **SUPPORT**

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Kathy Wilson, and I live in Loveland, CO. As the Co-Director of Action & Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO), I am representing the League regarding **HB23-1263 Translating Individualized Education Programs**. LWVCO is a nonpartisan organization that encourages active participation in government. The Colorado League has 1900 members in 19 local Leagues spanning the state. LWVCO members urge you to vote in **SUPPORT** of HB23-1263 Translating Individualized Education Programs.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado recognizes parents or guardians as vital members of students' Individualized Education Programs (IEP) teams. Who better than parents know and understand their child's needs? This deep understanding makes them effective advocates in IEP meetings for their child receiving special education services. This advocacy becomes problematic when the IEP documentation is in a language other than their home language. Thus, it is crucial for parents and guardians to have IEPs translated into their home language. Translated documents can foster increased engagement between parents or guardians and the school's IEP team.

LWVCO recognizes that HB23 1263 has important equity and inclusion implications that are supported by the League's education positions. Therefore, LWVCO supports measures which promote, help, and encourage families to prepare students to meet academic standards. We promote equalizing educational opportunity with equity for students and school districts. LWVCO acknowledges the necessity for equitable programs for students with special needs. A high quality and equitable public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado urges you to vote **YES** on **HB23-1263 Translating Individualized Education Programs**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathleen M. Wilson".

Kathleen Wilson, Ph.D.
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