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Gov. Polis Signs Landmark Legislation Protecting Students with Disabilities

Civil Rights Advocates Hail New Law as “Monumental Step” Toward Justice

DENVER, CO — Disability Law Colorado applauds Gov. Jared Polis’s support of [Senate Bill 26-125](#), landmark legislation to protect Colorado students with disabilities. DLC hailed the Governor’s decision as “a monumental step in the march toward justice.”

More than 163,000 students in Colorado have a disability. Thanks to the Governor and a bipartisan team of lawmakers and advocates, they will now be shielded from discrimination under state law.

“Children with disabilities are more likely to be bullied, harassed, secluded, restrained, suspended, and expelled,” said DLC Co-Legal Director **Emily Harvey**, who drafted SB 125. “That’s not just dangerous — it’s illegal.”

The new law creates a formal complaint process, requires school districts to investigate and correct problems, and allows the state to step in if schools repeatedly violate disability rights. SB 125 also prohibits retaliation against families who file complaints.

The move comes as the U.S. Department of Education continues to gut the enforcement of federal civil rights laws. “Gov. Polis is sending a welcome message to the Trump administration,” said DLC Executive Director **Andrew Romanoff**. “If you won’t protect students with disabilities, we will.”

DLC will work with Gov. Polis to ensure full funding for SB 125. “Colorado can lead the nation,” said DLC Public Policy Liaison **Jack Johnson**. “We’re grateful for the Governor’s support and eager to move forward.”

To schedule interviews with Harvey, Johnson, Romanoff, or Colorado families impacted by the new law, contact DLC Communications Manager **Felix Ortiz** at 720-202-9871 or fortiz@disabilitylawco.org.

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Disability Law Colorado is a nonprofit civil rights organization, authorized by federal law to combat discrimination, abuse, and neglect. We aim to make Colorado the best place in America for people with disabilities to thrive. For more information, visit disabilitylawco.org.