



April 28, 2025

SB25 027 TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOL SAFETY PRACTICES SUPPORT

Mr. Chair and Members of the House Committee:

My name is Dr. Kathy Wilson, and I am representing the League of Women Voters of Colorado's 1,800 members from across Colorado regarding **SB 027**. As a nonpartisan organization the League encourages citizen participation in government through education and advocacy. We urge you to vote **YES** on SB25 027.

The League views creating a safe environment in schools as an essential component to learning success. We support policies and programs that promote the physical, social, and emotional well-being of students, and that ensure the mental and physical safety of all children.

We have all become aware of the rising incidence rate of actual school threats, presenting a clear need for school safety drills. When these school drills are poorly planned and executed, they can generate anxiety in both students and teachers. Trauma-informed school safety practices can help to mitigate the emotional stress and anxiety of school drills for everyone through extensive place-based and developmentally appropriate education and preparation. When students and teachers know what to expect during a school safety drill and why they are being asked to act in particular ways, they understand that the school cares about their safety. Feeling cared about and safe can foster resiliency in children – an underlying long-term outcome of trauma-informed practices.

We view the education of children to be a shared responsibility, and SB 027 exemplifies this concept. The detailed composition of the working group and the targeted goals of its work delineated in the bill will bring a broad range of important perspectives to inform the working group's recommendations for the professional development of school personnel regarding how to best respond to a school safety incident.

Finally, the League of Women Voters recognizes the serious restrictions on available school funding from the state in the current Colorado budget. We applaud the bill

sponsors for their solution to move this bill forward by requiring the work group be funded entirely by gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations as part of a public- private partnership agreement and not General Fund money.

Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Colorado urges you to vote **YES** on **SB 027**.

Thank you for your service to Colorado.

With warm regards,

Kathy Wilson, Ph.D.
Legislative Action Committee – Education
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