

Press Release for Immediate Release:

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**Governor Hickenlooper Signs Policy Change
to Make High School Education More Accessible for Teen Moms**

Governor Hickenlooper signed a policy change to Colorado Childcare Assistance Program, or CCAP, at Florence Crittenton High School today. The new policy gives teen parents easier access to childcare while they are completing high school.

Prior to the policy change, teen parents were required to take the other biological parent to court for child support before they could access CCAP. This proved to be a significant barrier for young parents who often lack the funds, knowledge and skills necessary to meet the requirement.

Bipartisan bill sponsors include Mile High United Way and Teen Parent Collaborative, which includes stakeholders such as Florence Crittenton and Hope House of Colorado.

“Over 50 percent of teen moms drop out of high school, and the biggest barrier they face in trying to finish their education is accessing childcare,” says Lisa Steven, founder and executive director of Hope House of Colorado. “This policy change will support young parents who are working toward finishing high school, which is a vital step in breaking the cycle of poverty.”

Photo: Caption Teen moms and kids from Florence Crittenton High School join Governor Hickenlooper as he signs a policy change regarding CCAP requirements. Photo credit: Kendra Widman.

About Hope House of Colorado: Hope House of Colorado is metro-Denver's only resource providing free self-sufficiency programs to teen moms, including Residential, GED and College & Career Support services. Additional supportive services include parenting and life skills classes, healthy relationship classes, financial literacy workshops and certified counseling, all designed to prepare them for long-term independence. Hope House relies on numerous volunteers and local business partnerships to accomplish its mission. Hopehouseofcolorado.org.

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