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COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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**Questions for the Record**

**Full Committee Hearing:  
“American Education in Crisis”  
February 8, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

**Representative Mary Miller (R-IL):**

Please provide a response to each of the following questions:

1. Governor Polis, do you think it’s appropriate for an adult teacher to talk to an 8-year-old girl about changing her gender?

As I mentioned during my testimony, what's important is that teachers meet the academic needs of all learners, all students, no matter who they are. Students need to learn math, reading and writing. And students need to involve the parents in making sure that kids are able to get the education they need, no matter what a person’s faith is, no matter what their gender is, or no matter any of the other great aspects of diversity that make our country a stronger place.

2. Should schools hide discussions between adult teachers and their 10-year-old students about gender transition from parents?

My response remains the same as my testimony and per what is written above.

3. Do parents have a right to know if adult teachers are talking to their 10-year-old elementary school children about sexual orientation?

My response remains the same as my testimony and per what is written above.

4. Can you see why parents would be upset if adult teachers were talking to their 8-year-old children about their sexual orientation

My response remains the same as my testimony and per what is written above.

### **Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ):**

1. Governor Polis, even before the pandemic, many states and districts faced teacher shortages. This is particularly true for high-poverty districts and for hard to staff subject areas like special education, English learner education, math, and science. Additionally, many districts struggle to recruit and retain a diverse educator workforce.
  - How are you addressing the teacher shortage in Colorado, particularly in schools that have historically experienced high rates of teacher turnover?
  - What strategies are you using to ensure that as you address the teacher shortage, you are also ensuring that you work to diversify the teacher workforce?

Thank you, Representative Grijalva, for this important question. Teachers remain the number one most important factor when it comes to the in-school success of our students and we need high quality teachers in the classroom now more than ever.

In Colorado, we are proud to be working with our teachers to come up with a variety of solutions to help address some of the challenges that have made it harder to staff our classrooms. This includes expanding the Temporary Educator Loan Forgiveness Program we set up during COVID; Having Colorado join the newly-created Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact that will make it easier for teachers to move across state lines with fewer hoops to jump through, especially our military families; Expanding new pathways into the classroom like teacher apprenticeships; and The Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado AmeriCorps teams are collaborating right now to use ESSER funds to provide AmeriCorps members serving as tutors in Colorado schools the opportunity to leverage their tutoring experience to gain their alternative teacher licenses and become full time teachers.

We also recognize the importance of creating a more diverse pipeline of teachers. We are proud that Metropolitan State University in Denver just received \$1.5 million from the Department of Education through the Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program to diversify the teacher pipeline in Colorado by increasing completion rates of traditionally underrepresented students.

### **Representative Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP)**

1. I have long been a strong proponent of educating and preparing individuals to meet the needs of the workforce, while also encouraging them and providing them with the tools to achieve their full potential. To that end, I have led several pieces of legislation targeted at expanding education and career training services in the Marianas. Governor Polis, a 2017 impact study found that intensive career services funded by WIOA were effective in increasing earnings of individuals receiving these services. In some cases, individuals were earning up to 20 percent more than they otherwise would have.
  - Are you seeing the same kind of effect with the recipients of intensive or individualized career services in Colorado?
  - Which career services are most impactful and why do you think they make a difference?
  - What kind of funding do you need to offer these services to more workers?

Representative Sablan, I applaud your efforts to expand education and career training services in the Marianas. All workers should have both the skills and services they need to thrive. Intensive career services, including those funded by WIOA, can play a key role in helping workers earn at their full potential. To ensure that states can offer these services to workers, providing governors and state workforce agencies with flexible funding to continue to direct investments towards our own unique in-demand workforce needs, including wraparound services, is essential.