

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SEN. RACHEL ZENZINGER

Senate District 19 (Arvada and Westminster)

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### **Party of yesterday! Senate GOP backs corporal punishment?**

*Denver, CO* -- Whether it is paddling or hitting knuckles with rulers, the practice of corporal punishment in schools has been shown in study after study to be ineffective, and actually harmful to children's ability to learn. In Colorado, corporal punishment is banned in juvenile detention facilities, child-care facilities, and youth residential treatment facilities. Yet, in the year 2017, it is still legal for teachers to engage in physical child abuse to 'discipline' children.

After passing out the House with bipartisan support, HB17-1038 would have banned this outdated practice in our schools, ensuring schools are places where all kids can feel safe around those who are supposed to be teaching them, the educators and administrators. Instead, the three Senate Republicans on the Judiciary Committee decided this afternoon to keep this horrible practice in Colorado's schools by voting down HB1038, 3-2.

"I'm disappointed, to say the least. Overwhelmingly, research shows that the practice of in-school corporal punishment is harmful, ineffective, and often disproportionately applied to students of color and students with disabilities. Rather than allow this antiquated practice to continue, we should be leading the way in fostering positive school climates and improving discipline practices through proven strategies. This practice has no place in a modern nation that prides itself on decades of advancement in the areas of human rights and racial equality. It's a black mark on our reputation and really defies logic," **said State Senator Rachel Zenzinger, D-Arvada, the bill's sponsor.**

A [2016 report](#) by the U.S. Department of Education found that 485 Colorado students were administered corporal punishment during the 2011-2012 school year. HB1038 had passed out of the House, both in committee and the full House, with bipartisan support.

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**ABOUT SEN. ZENZINGER:**

*Sen. Rachel Zenzinger serves Colorado Senate District 19, which spans most of Arvada and the Jefferson County portion of Westminster. She won election to the seat in November 2016, and she serves on the Senate Education and Transportation committees. She previously served in the Senate in 2014. Her professional background is in education, and she was most recently state manager for the America Achieves Colorado Educator Voice Fellowship. For more information about Sen. Zenzinger, please go to [www.RachelForColorado.com](http://www.RachelForColorado.com) or call her at 303-866-4840.*