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Colorado Legislators have an exciting opportunity to work together to pass the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Legislation which is up for renewal and should enjoy unanimous support.

Too many Colorado families are unable to obtain quality care for their children and to choose the provider best qualified to meet their needs. By granting a 50% tax credit to private and corporate contributors who make qualified donations, Colorado has been receiving about \$50,000,000 annually that are made available to both low income families and the public at large to expand available child care. Using voluntary, private contributions to assist in making childcare more affordable should appeal to all those concerned about Colorado's future. Adequate, quality, and affordable childcare is imperative for both families and employers.

By renewing what has been in place for many years, the legislature will continue providing a vehicle by which voluntary contributions can be deducted from the donor's state income tax obligation and then directed to families who otherwise would not have access to child care. Those of us in the battle to improve student achievement are painfully aware of the challenge many low income mothers and guardians face as they bring up their young families. For 20 years, Parents Challenge has been empowering low income families with scholarships and grants for more than 2,000 kids, so they can choose the school they determine is best for their children, be it traditional public, charter public, private or home. All of our funding comes from private contributions, much of it from donors who, by taking advantage of the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit, increase the amount of their giving. Parents Challenge puts one more tool in the toolbox of parents, empowering them to exercise more control over their lives and take more responsibility for their family's future.

Please encourage your legislator to renew Colorado's Child Care Contribution Tax Credit. It extends a mechanism by which private donors, both personal and business, are encouraged to voluntarily contribute more of their dollars to empower low income families seeking access to better childcare and the education they think is best for their children, while enjoying a direct tax deduction for their doing so – a winner for everyone.

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