



The Process of Passing Colorado's Reasonable Independence Law

H.B. 22-1090 passed the Colorado legislature unanimously and was signed by the Governor on March 30, 2022, effective August 10, 2022. H.B. 22-1090 changes Colorado law at Children's Code, 19-1-103 (Definitions), adding a new 100(b) to the definition of neglect at 100(a). An earlier version of the bill, H.B. 20-1137, passed the House unanimously but was not heard by the Senate after the pandemic caused the legislature to close in March 2020. The bill that passed was sponsored by Sen. Janet Buckner, Sen. Jim Smallwood, Rep. Kim Ransom and Rep. Mary Young. Sen. Buckner and Rep. Ransom led the negotiations to bill language with stakeholders which led to the initial unanimous passage in the Colorado House in 2020.

Let Grow organized a coalition of supporters of the bill, who included the Office of Parent Respondent Counsel, Elephant Circle, CALOR, Parental Rights Foundation, the ACLU of Colorado, individual parents, educators, and youth service workers and university professors. Let Grow also co-hosted a community forum, worked with the legislative drafters on revisions to the language of the bill, prepared witnesses to testify, prepared fact sheets, worked closely with a lobbying team and the legislators who supported the legislation, and also assisted with the media outreach in Colorado and nationally concerning the bill.

Let Grow prepared a Frequently Asked Questions memo about the Colorado law. You can access that here. ([FAQs](#)).

For more information see:

Column Kim Ransom and Sen. Janet Buckner, Ransom, [Should Letting Your Kids Play Outside Be Illegal?](#) (The Colorado Sun, February 12, 2020)

Brown, J. Colorado, [Lawmakers Want to Spell it Out: It's Perfectly Legal for Kids to Play Outside or Walk to School Alone](#) (The Colorado Sun, February 18, 2022)

Metzger, H., [Colorado Legislature Unanimously OKs 'Reasonable Independence' for Children](#) (The Denver Gazette, March 15, 2022)

Metzger, H., [Gov. Jared Polis Signs Reasonable Independence for Children Into Law](#) (Colorado Politics, (March 30, 2022)

Skenazy, L., [Mom Convicted of Letting Daughter Play Outside Celebrates Colorado's New "Let Grow" Law](#), (May 24, 2022)