

**Testimony by Elise Jones in support of HB18-1352,  
Oil and Gas Facilities Distance from School Property -- April 26, 2018**

Good afternoon. My name is Elise Jones and I am a Boulder County Commissioner, here today representing Boulder County and my constituents.

I am also testifying today on behalf of Counties and Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT), which provides a unified, nonpartisan and independent voice at the Capitol. CCAT's membership includes more than three dozen commissioners from nearly 20 counties in all regions of the state.

For both Boulder County and CCAT, I respectfully ask for a YES vote on House Bill 1352.

While the oil and gas issue has gotten increasingly contentious, I think and hope that if we focus on the common ground that unites us, we can come together today in supporting this bill as a modest, common sense measure focused on the health and safety of our kids.

We all love our children and I think we can also agree that it doesn't make any sense to site activities and development that could be harmful to our kids near their schools, be it marijuana shops, liquor stores or industrial development like oil and gas.

By requiring that the state setback be measured from the school's property line rather than the school building, we will provide protection to school children while they're on playgrounds, athletic fields, outdoor lunch areas and the like, which is in keeping with the spirit in which the state adopted the setback.

It would safeguard them from pollutants regularly generated by oil and gas activities and also accidents such as explosions and toxic gas releases. I'd note that there have been more than 100 fires and explosions at Colorado oil and gas sites in the last decade. Why would we take chances with our kids' lives and health?

To paint a personal picture, my daughter runs outdoor track. She has a meet today at a neighboring school. With any luck, I'll get home in time to cheer her on. I ask you, if there were an oil and gas well nearby, should she have less protection when she's outside competing for her school than when she's inside attending class? It makes no sense and I don't think this is what was intended.

I respectfully ask you to embrace the collective love we have for our children and vote yes on this common sense bill.