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FAMILIES AND ADVOCATES WILL RALLY FOR BABIES AT VIRTUAL STROLLING THUNDER COLORADO

Denver, CO – On Saturday, September 12, parents and their babies, pregnant people, and early childhood advocates from around the State, will gather **online** for **Strolling Thunder Colorado**. The advocacy event is designed to raise awareness among state policy makers to *Think Babies*, and support Colorado's child care system so parents can return to work and our economy can fully recover.

This is the third annual Strolling Thunder Colorado, but for health and safety concerns, this year's event will be completely virtual, offering families an opportunity to get involved in this important cause while remaining in the care and comfort of their own homes. A family-friendly advocacy opportunity, the event will include personal story-sharing with elected officials and among families, a snack prep demo with Cooking Matters, kidoriented self-care with Remembrance Wellness and Yoga, dancing with Baby Rave, and much more.

<u>Raise Colorado</u>, a local coalition convened by Clayton Early Learning and the Colorado Children's Campaign, partners with <u>ZERO TO THREE</u> to promote Strolling Thunder Colorado as part of the national *Think Babies and Act*[™] campaign in Colorado, a nonpartisan effort that seeks to make the potential of every baby a priority. Strolling Thunder Colorado is also supported locally by the Colorado Association for Education of Young Children (COAEYC), Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA), and WeeCycle.

"This pandemic has proven, in Colorado and across the nation, that families need the support of our elected officials to ensure their babies and toddlers can thrive, stated ZERO TO THREE Chief Policy Officer Myra Jones-Taylor. "And furthermore, we are seeing the absolute importance of a strong child care system to get our families back to work. We are so proud of the work that Colorado's Strolling Thunder families are doing on behalf of their communities, and we stand with them today as they work to make their state a better place for infants and toddlers."

Strolling Thunder Colorado is completely free and open to everyone interested in building a better future for Colorado babies. For details and event registration, please visit <u>bit.ly/StrollingThunder2020</u>

About Raise Colorado

Raise Colorado, co-convened by Clayton Early Learning and the Colorado Children's Campaign, is a coalition of organizations, parents, advocates, businesses, service providers and government representatives that support the growth of Colorado's youngest children and their families through public awareness, policy development and advocacy efforts. Raise Colorado supports all Colorado's children and families during the prenatal period through the earliest years to ensure healthier communities, a stronger workforce, and more robust economy now and into the future. Please visit <u>https://raisecolorado.org/</u>

About Zero to Three

ZERO TO THREE works to ensure all infants and toddlers benefit from the family and community connections critical to their wellbeing and development. Since 1977, the organization has advanced the proven power of nurturing relationships by transforming the science of early childhood into helpful resources, practical tools and responsive policies for millions of parents, professionals and policymakers. For more information, and to learn how to become a ZERO TO THREE member, please visit <u>zerotothree.org</u>, <u>facebook.com/zerotothree</u>, or follow <u>@ZEROTOTHREE</u> on Twitter.

About Think Babies[™]

ZERO TO THREE created the *Think Babies* campaign to make the potential of every baby a national priority. When we *Think Babies* and invest in infants, toddlers, and their families, we ensure a strong future for us all. Learn more at <u>thinkbabies.org</u> or follow <u>@ZEROTOTHREE</u> on Twitter.

About Clayton Early Learning

Clayton Early Learning is an innovation hub that fosters thriving, equitable communities by partnering with families to **nurture** a whole child, whole family approach to the early years, **discover** what works, and **advance** systems change. Committed to the belief that healthy early childhood development offers one of the most powerful levers for ending poverty and inequality, Clayton applies a unique two-generation approach that demonstrates what's possible in the early years, and the positive impact that it has for children and families over time. Home to Colorado's only Educare school, a nationally recognized model supporting children from birth to age five, and their families, Clayton also influences systems change through our research and evaluation services, professional development for educators and leaders, and policy and advocacy work at the state and federal levels. Visit <u>www.claytonearlylearning.org</u> for more information.

About Colorado Children's Campaign

The Colorado Children's Campaign is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization committed since 1985 to realizing every chance for every child in Colorado. We advocate for the development and implementation of data-driven public policies that improve child well-being in health, education and early childhood. We do this by providing Coloradans with trusted data and research on child well-being and organizing an extensive statewide network of dedicated child advocates. For more information, please visit <u>www.coloradokids.org</u>.