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CEA Committed to Making Evaluation Law Work

Governor Ritter today signed Senate Bill 191 into law. Colorado Education Association President Beverly Ingle said, "Although CEA did not support the bill, we are committed to doing everything we can to make sure this law is implemented correctly.

"Our members want a fair and credible evaluation system for both teachers and principals. We welcome the opportunity to help the State Educator Effectiveness Council develop the best evaluation system possible. Much of the work required by this law will be done by the Council, so it is very important that Council members are able to spend the time and have the resources to be successful," Ingle said.

"We are pleased that some of the changes we suggested to the bill were included, but we still have a number of concerns about the implementation of this new law. For example, the law defines the outcomes of a new evaluation system before the Council has had the chance to do its work of determining the system."

Ingle continued, "We believe there will be substantial costs to school districts as they implement this law over the next few years. The Council is charged with doing a cost study. Regardless of the results of this study, the fact remains that school district funding has been cut and further cuts are projected. There is no extra money in school district budgets to devote to this effort. And it is unlikely that the state will be able to provide additional funding to school districts for some time. Without the money and other resources to do it right, we are concerned that short cuts may be taken that could do more harm than good."

"We will do what's right for the teachers and the students of Colorado. CEA and its members want a good evaluation system that supports teachers and helps them do an excellent job of teaching students. We are committed to helping our students achieve. Nothing is more important," Ingle concluded.

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The Colorado Education Association has 40,000 members, the vast majority of whom are K-12 public school teachers. CEA is affiliated with the 3.2 million member National Education Association.