

## Honoring Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – Position Statement

Sexual and reproductive rights are integral to human rights. We recognize the systemic inequities related to sexism, racism, homophobia, laws, economics, and socio-cultural context do not allow all people to have bodily autonomy.

Caring for Colorado’s vision is that Colorado’s children and families are happy, healthy, and thriving. Our purpose is to create equity in health, well-being, and opportunity for Colorado’s children and families. Equity is directly tied to children, youth, and adults having access to information and resources that support positive well-being and opportunity across the lifespan — including a wide range of developmentally appropriate educational and clinical services that promote positive sexual development. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are a particularly important aspect of normal adolescent development that encompasses biological sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sexual behavior, and reproduction.

### Caring for Colorado Foundation’s Position

- **We believe all people in Colorado have the right to maintain personal bodily autonomy.**
- **We believe that sexual and reproductive health care is essential health care.** This includes family planning and contraception, abortion access and care, perinatal and fertility care, and sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, as well as safe and consenting personal relationships.
- **We support access to comprehensive, developmentally appropriate, evidence-based, confidential, medically accurate, timely, and gender-affirming sexual and reproductive health information and services for all people in Colorado regardless of race, religious belief, ability, gender identity, and sexual orientation.** This includes access to information that is non-coercive, accurate, culturally responsive, and in support of an individual’s decisions about health and well-being throughout their lifetime.
- **We recognize sexual and reproductive health services, education, and rights as a fundamental component of an individual’s overall physical, emotional, and social well-being.**
- **We believe sexual and reproductive health services need to be inclusive and affirming for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.** We acknowledge the larger context of inequity in reproductive health where people do not have equitable access to information and resources, and their decisions and futures are not equally respected, particularly for young people/youth, women of color, indigenous women, immigrants, transgender people and people with disabilities.
- **We acknowledge the racist history of eugenic practices, forced sterilization, genital mutilation, birth control testing conducted without consent, and other racial injustices that have occurred in the US health care system and specifically here in Colorado.** We support health care systems that affirm community cultural assets and denounce racist structures that impede a person’s access to health care.