

Senate Health & Human Services

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SB22-106 Conflict Of Interest In Public Behavioral Hlth

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Julie Reiskin For Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition	Madame Chair and Members of the Committee The Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, the only statewide disability-led social justice organization, writes in very strong support of SB 22-106. This necessary legislation will begin to redress a problem that has been embedded in our flawed behavioral health system ever since we started doing managed care for mental health. The conflicts of interest have become a public harm to our citizens. The recent press about these failings and the fact that our outcomes remain poor despite us pouring millions of dollars into mental and behavioral health care over the years are evidence that what we are doing does not work. We have have heard and been involved in heartbreaking stories over the years where people with multiple disabilities were denied medically necessary treatment because the treatment was not in the best financial interest of the provider owners. In every single case, the cost to the state was higher and the devastation to individuals and families was immense. Please support this necessary legislation and only accept amendments that are agreed to by the sponsors and advocates. Do not accept weakening amendments that are the result of self-dealing. Citizens around the state are depending on you to support this bipartisan common-sense policy. Thank you very much