

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services
04/05/2022 01:30 PM
SB22-106 Conflict Of Interest In Public Behavioral Hlth
Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Stephanie Berliant For Better Life Therapy</p>	<p>My name is Stephanie Berliant and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. I work as a behavioral health therapist and group practice owner with 3 employees. We provide services to low-income individuals through Medicaid and Medicare. Thank you to the bill sponsors. I support SB22-156 with the first amendment.</p> <p>Imagine working 5 days a week, meeting with 6-7 clients per day who present with issues like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, suicidality, homicidality, and severe eating disorders. Imagine working hard to ensure these individuals stay out of the psychiatric emergency room, or do something to harm themselves or others. Then imagine spending roughly 2 hours per day on documentation to be paid a rate that is much lower than private pay clinicians make. After a few weeks, you receive your reimbursement, which puts your income squarely in the median range for a Denver resident. Then, several months or even years later, imagine being told that because you didn't check a box on an electronic form, or an obscure rule had changed and you missed it, your already-moderate income is being taken back. You will not be given a chance to fix your clerical error; tens of thousands of dollars will be taken from you. This is what we as providers live in fear of, as it happens regularly. I support this bill to lessen the anxiety of mental health providers across the state. Thank you.</p>
<p>Marsha Porter-Norton For Self</p>	<p>Dear Representatives: It is an honor to provide testimony to you today for SB 22-106. I am in full support of this bill and am speaking for myself as a Commissioner from La Plata County. Our county belongs both to CCI and CCAT.</p> <p>It will increase transparency by ensuring providers do not make decisions on network adequacy or funding decisions when in control of taxpayer dollars. It will also increase community trust in organizations created to be stewards of taxpayer dollars by increasing community members on boards of MSOs, ASOs, and RAEs owned by providers.</p> <p>In order to make this successful, this will require the State to increase responsibilities around monitoring network adequacy, network denials, and funding allocations to ensure providers that have ownership or board membership are not inappropriately given preference in funding decisions.</p>

	<p>This bill is simply good government and represents a path to a more transparent mental health system across Colorado, one that encourages more public input and trust.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton La Plata County</p>
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