

Senate Health & Human Services
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 HB22-1325 Primary Care Alternative Payment Models
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Blair Skinner Amend Early Childhood Wellness Place	<p>Thank you Committee Chairwoman Fields and the committee for this opportunity to testify, and thank you for your attention to matters of healthcare provider payments.</p> <p>My name is Blair Skinner, LMFT. I am the owner of Early Childhood Wellness Place (ECWP) in Broomfield where we work with children 0-12 with both private insurance and Medicaid. Currently we serve close to 150 children and have 115 more on our wait list. I am also the President of the Broomfield Early Childhood Council, and a member of COMBINE.</p> <p>We are asking for inclusion of Medicaid payers in HB22-1325. As I mentioned, we work with young children and we have had over 100 on our waiting list consistently for several years now. Most of the families on our wait list are on several wait lists with various providers, and many of them are families with Medicaid. At ECWP, we have space, equipment, and the ability to hire at least two more clinicians. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to find qualified professionals to hire. Working with private insurance, Medicaid, Victim’s Compensation, and other payers, we must track a significant number of requirements, procedures, quality control measures, and billing practices. To be honest, it is difficult to convince clinicians to be willing to do the extra work required for families with Medicaid when I simply cannot afford to pay them what they are likely to make at larger Mental Health Centers, facilities and hospitals.</p> <p>As a member of COMBINE, I have now testified numerous times this year, both virtually and in writing, before committees in the House and the Senate regarding bills supporting the Independent Provider Network (IPN) of Medicaid mental health providers. Including Medicaid providers in HB22-1325 is one thing that you can do to support those of us in the IPN who are committed to serving families with Medicaid.</p> <p>Thank you again for your time and consideration</p>