

House Health & Human Services

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HB25-1154 Communication Serv People with Disabilities Enter

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Staci Nicols For Northwest Colorado Center for Independence	Hello, my name is Staci Nichols and I am independent living coordinator at Northwest Colorado Center for Independence. I am deaf and I work with the disabled population in rural northwestern part of the state. I have been with Rural Communications Access Services since the very beginning and I have firsthand experience on how amazing and beneficial it has been for me and my deaf colleagues. We use this program often and it had helped me do my job more efficiently and be able to do more work around the state. I also got to see more of my deaf peers receive better medial care, job understanding, access to more public functions and be fully involved. This program also enabled more deaf employees get promotions and have better opportunities to better themselves. Not only did RCAS and CART benefit the deaf, it benefitted the employees and other hearing folks who work with the deaf. Overall, without good communication access with all parties involved, we basically have nothing. I greatly appreciate the funding to help with this and I urge that this bill be considered and passed. Thank you all very much for your time.