

**House Health & Human Services**

**03/26/2025 01:30 PM**

**HB25-1297 Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise Update**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Jeany Rush Against themselves	<p>TO: HOUSE HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE</p> <p>RE: HB25-1297 UPDATES TO HEALTH INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ENTERPRISE COVER HEALTH INSUR. NEEDS/STATE</p> <p>FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs Constituent</p> <p>VOTE: NO 3-18-25</p> <p>You all have managed to sneak in, single payer public health insurance edicts, and more entitlements, hacking legit health insurance, or causing it to pay for more government/state systems in yet another unnecessary bill. The words "Enterprise" equal more government agenda. Further, The ACA has already destroyed the medical systems in our nation.</p> <p>Further, You are once again, under the table, so to speak hack into TABOR. If you cannot get it one way, you do it through the bills, and their non-stop "Back Door" grabs of the taxpayers funds, while wasting tones of our money, with one enterprise after another, all needing managed. You are playing into the AI agenda to overwhelm the system, the people, and basically control us from cradle to grave.</p> <p>It would be laughable, if it were not tragic, and a real violation of our of our rights under the constitution, and our rights to have open and transparent legislation. WE do not have that with this nonstop bill production machine. I sure hope you wake up. But that assumes you actually CARE!</p> <p>Add the Fiscal note, what was it? \$68 Million? Again I mean backdoor to Tabor Funds. The government has demonstrated that it is not able to properly manage, budget, nor really effectively help with health and welfare. Witness the lies of Pharma, Medical conventional systems, CDC, FDA etc. This is more of the same stuff.</p> <p>"The bill changes the allocation of the HIAE fee assessed for 2026, dedicating up to 40% each to state-subsidized individual health coverage plans purchased by qualified individuals and to the reinsurance program cash fund, with the remaining revenue allocated</p>

	<p>for other purposes specified in the bill, including new and emerging health insurance affordability initiatives.</p> <p>The bill authorizes the enterprise to seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations for the purposes of the HIAE. " CONFLICT OF INTEREST MUCH?</p>
<p>Leticia Alvidrez Amend Center for Health Progress</p>	<p>Dear Chairman Brown and members of the committee,</p> <p>My name is Leticia Alvidrez and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of Center for Health Progress. I urge the committee to amend HB25-1297.</p> <p>While private health insurance companies bring in record-breaking profits, Colorado’s healthcare safety net is being pushed to the brink. I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist at a Colorado federally qualified health center. As a dietitian, I provide medical nutrition therapy (MNT). In other words, I provide nutrition education and counseling that can reduce the risk of developing chronic conditions and diseases or mitigate the progression of those conditions. Furthermore, I am trained to present MNT in an individualized, culturally, and accessible manner. Yet, without Omnisalud, access to MNT services through dietitians would not be a service easily afforded by many Coloradans.</p> <p>In this role, I’ve seen firsthand the impact of having Omnisalud coverage. I’ve worked with Omnisalud recipients who were successful at preventing the progression of their prediabetes to type 2 diabetes or improving their hypertension status while preventing other comorbidities.</p> <p>I see many of my loved ones in my patients; this is why I do the work with such passion. Dietitian services were once considered an exclusive service for those who could afford it out of pocket or those with health insurance. Health care services like the one I provide are essential and are accessible because of coverage options like Omnisalud. Withholding or limiting this opportunity for more people is doing our communities a disservice. By amending HB25-1297 to add an additional 1% increase in reinsurance fee to for-profit insurance companies, dietitian services can continue to be accessible to even more Coloradans who need it most.</p>

	<p>Beyond the positive health impacts, MNT services can help lower costs for health care systems and individual patients because people are able to prevent and treat chronic illness early on. Investing in a comprehensive Omnisalud program mitigates the potential negative financial impact to the patient and the insurer.</p> <p>We can't afford for Coloradans to continue to be left without health insurance. No matter if we were born here or chose to make this our home, we all want people in our communities to succeed and achieve their highest potential. However, being uninsured negatively affects long-term success in school, careers, and overall health. Emergency care isn't cheap, and that's what uninsured Coloradans are forced to rely on. It drives families into medical debt and bankruptcy and makes taxpayers and Colorado hospitals foot the bill. Better health care for immigrants and low-income people is a win for families, communities, and our state's economic future.</p> <p>An additional 1% increase in for-profit insurance companies will barely make a dent in their record profits and will provide coverage for thousands more of our most vulnerable neighbors. Please vote to amend this bill.</p>
<p>Jeany Rush Against themselves</p>	<p>TO: HOUSE HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE RE: HB25-1297 UPDATES TO HEALTH INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ENTERPRISE COVER HEALTH INSUR. NEEDS/STATE FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs Constituent 3-18-25 VOTE: NO</p> <p>You all have managed to sneak in, single payer public health insurance edicts, and more entitlements, hacking legit health insurance, or causing it to pay for more government/state systems in yet another unnecessary bill. The words "Enterprise" equal more government agenda. Further, The ACA has already destroyed the medical systems in our nation.</p> <p>Further, You are once again, under the table, so to speak hack into TABOR. If you cannot get it one way, you do it through the bills, and their non-stop "Back Door" grabs of the taxpayers funds, while wasting tones of our money, with one enterprise after another, all needing managed. You are playing into the AI agenda to overwhelm the system, the people, and basically control us from cradle to grave.</p>

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Jasmine's testimony on HB1297

Dear Mister Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB-1297, which aims to improve healthcare access for underserved communities. My name is Jasmine Sandate and I work in direct service at a non-profit in Boulder County and am a leader at Center for Health Progress.

As someone who works directly with community members who are struggling to access basic needs, I've seen how our unaffordable, profit-driven healthcare system prevents people in my community from accessing vital medical care. One of my participants, a woman who is undocumented and has diabetes, couldn't afford insulin or doctor visits. When her condition worsened, she had no choice but to go to the ER, leaving her family with overwhelming medical debt. (It's heartbreaking how much our lives are tied to systems focused more on profit than people. No one should have to choose between health and affordability, especially when it comes to life-saving care. If this were my mother, I'd feel powerless, trapped in a system that forces you to question everything—your priorities, values, and love for your family.) This is a common reality—families struggling with the high cost of care, leading to financial and emotional distress.

Our community center provides resources, but we cannot fix the systemic barriers that prevent people from getting the care they need. The lack of access to healthcare creates a domino effect—lost wages, medical debt, and the inability to afford basic necessities like housing, food, and education.

When OmniSalud was introduced, I was hopeful. It provided a lifeline for undocumented individuals to access care. However, the program's limited spots filled quickly, leaving many still without coverage. I saw firsthand the deep disappointment and continued struggles of those left out.

We can and must do better. Healthcare is a basic human right, and everyone should have access to it, regardless of their immigration status. It's time for private insurers to contribute their fair share and help cover more people in our state. When some people are excluded from receiving care, it affects all of us. .

HB-1297 is a crucial step toward ensuring all Coloradans can access the care they need without the burden of medical debt. I urge you to support this bill for the well-being of our entire community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mister Chair and members of the Committee -

Thank you for taking the time to read and take this testimony into consideration.

My name is Sam Battan. I'm a longtime Colorado educator and new leader with Center for Health Progress. I'm writing this testimony to urge the committee to amend HB1297 as I believe strongly that private insurance companies can and should pay their fair share into the enterprise fund. A well-funded and robust enterprise fund can greatly improve the health and well-being of Colorado's vulnerable populations, and it's important that all of us contribute to the health of our neighbors - especially the private companies who are profiting off of our pain.

I know firsthand how greed in our healthcare system can cause harm to Coloradans. I lost my mom in 2001 to an opioid overdose. Prior to her death, she was prescribed Oxycontin for years on end by many doctors. Her death was devastating for my siblings and I. And it was completely preventable. Purdue Pharma, and other for-profit health care entities were profiting billions by contributing to opioid addiction. I was one of countless children who lost their parents to greed in the healthcare system.

When the insurance companies testify that they can't afford the fee increase, please keep in mind that they are raking in billions in profit each year. This is a chance for you all as committee members to stand firmly on the side of Coloradans who desperately need good health care. This bill does the important work of funding critical services like Omnisalud and abortion care so thank you for that.. And you can do more. Please raise this fee for for-profit insurance companies. They need to consider the people most at risk in our society. *You* need to consider the people most at risk in our society.

As you consider a vote, please keep vulnerable people at the center of your decision-making, not the profit margins of private insurance companies and amend this bill. Thank you.