

Testimony re: HB 1223: April 26, 2018 | Fr.....

Thank you Honorable Madam Chair Ginal and Honorable House members for entering this testimony into the hearing record.

I am Francis Sincere and the father of a 45 year old autistic son, Alan who lives with us. My wife Kathy and I have endeavored to provide Alan with the best care and education possible in spite of his disabilities. Over the years we noticed the increase in prevalence of autism in our State. No doubt autism has long been a concern here in Colorado.

Committee members I have provided a copy of the ACT from SB 08-163 signed by Gov. Ritter in 2008. As you can see on page 4 of this ACT it is the commissions first priority and duty to

**(a) DEFINE THE AUTISM SPECTRUM FOR PURPOSES OF THE SCOPE OF THE COMMISSION AND IDENTIFY THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY AUTISM IN THE STATE;**

It appears rightfully so, that the authors of this ACT wanted to start with a baseline of data to monitor the prevalence of autism in Colorado. How can any planning or meaningful actions be taken without knowing this fact.

Please refer to the 2009 Colorado Autism Commission Report which is include in your hearing packet for Bill 1223. It is indeed a commendable and ambitious set of findings and recommendations for our State. Coincidentally, this report says that Colorado has an autism epidemic; see top of page 9 and the middle of page 19.

However, a glaring deficiency in this report is the failure of the Commission account for any census or number of autism affected citizens in Colorado as of 2009 or any recommendation in this report identifying the number of citizens with autism in this State on an ongoing basis.

How can the Commission say there is autism epidemic 9 years ago without reporting the number of citizens affected by this disability in the whole State?

Can anyone honestly say we have Statewide data based on 7 counties around Denver? \*

The lack of a state wide autism census is a continuous violation of the SB 08-163Act.

All of the proponents of Bill 1223 request that this ongoing violation be corrected with its passage.

Respectfully yours,

Francis Sincere  
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\* ADDM information is based on the analysis of data collected from the health and some special education records of children who were 8 years old and living in one of 7 counties (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson) in Colorado in 2012.  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/CHED-Flyer-Autism-Colorado-Snapshot-Report-0616.pdf>