

Broomfield Taxpayer Matters



RE: HB26-1327 – House Finance Committee

Hearing Date: Monday, March 30, 2026 @ 1:30pm

Sponsors: Rep(s) Feret, Sen(s) Mullica

Thank you, Chair Woodrow, and Members of the House Finance Committee.

Thank you for considering this written testimony. My name is Sheryl Fernandez, and I represent Broomfield Taxpayer Matters, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to educate, empower, and advocate for the taxpayers across Colorado – NOT just in Broomfield.

Broomfield Taxpayer Matters are in OPPOSITION of HB26-1327.

BTM rise in strong opposition to this bill—not just because of what it does, but how it does it.

At its core, this bill creates yet another government entity—the so-called “Large Employer Health-Care Support Enterprise”—with the power to collect new fees outside of normal taxpayer protections. Let’s be clear: this is not innovation. This is a workaround.

Coloradans are already facing rising costs across the board—housing, groceries, insurance, and utilities. Now the state is proposing to layer on a new fee on employers, knowing full well those costs won’t stay with employers. They will be passed directly to workers through lower wages, reduced benefits, or fewer job opportunities—and to consumers through higher prices.

So, while this bill may not be labeled as a tax on individuals, it absolutely functions like one.

Even more concerning is the creation of a new government enterprise to collect and spend these funds outside of TABOR limits. This structure reduces transparency, weakens voter oversight, and allows government to grow without direct accountability to taxpayers. That should concern everyone in this room, regardless of political perspective.

If the goal is to address healthcare affordability, then we should be focused on cost containment, competition, and innovation—not building new bureaucracies and funding them through indirect taxation.

This bill does none of that.

Instead, it expands government, increases costs, and shifts the burden onto working families in a way that is less visible—but no less real.

Colorado taxpayers deserve honesty, transparency, and fiscal responsibility. This bill falls short on all three.

I respectfully urge you to vote no.

Thank you for your time.

House Finance

03/30/2026

HB26-1327 Large Employer Worker Health-Care Support

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Ginger Stringer Against themselves	<p>Thank you to all members of the legislature for your careful thought and commitment to those with all disabilities. I have a 28 year old son with a developmental disability (Fragile X Syndrome). He has limited verbal skills and needs support in everything he does. When he graduated from high school, the options for him were day program or the Inclusive Higher Education program at UCCS, he chose UCCS. After graduating with a certificate he wanted to work at the Broadmoor Hotel as a banquet server. The Broadmoor is a large employer that hires many individuals with disabilities in housekeeping, laundry and stewarding, not front of house banquet service. It took 4 months to convince the Broadmoor to hire him in this capacity and agreement was made if I, his mother, was hired to work with him. "We" have worked together part time for almost 4 years. (He cannot work full time as I have a full time job). After 3 years, he was awarded the Broadmoor Employee of the Month and 2025 Star of The Industry from the Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association. He has worked multiple times without me and my goal is to have him work regularly without me. To find employers willing to hire someone like my son is arduous. This bill appears to penalize companies and places ANOTHER barrier to employment. If anything, large employers should receive incentives to hire individuals like my son. Thank you for your consideration of my comments and thoughts.</p> <p>Ginger Stringer</p>