

## Final Testimony in Support of HB 1147

This bill is about ensuring people with disabilities are safe, supported, and protected in host homes.

My name is Molly Kirkham, and I am submitting testimony in support of HB 1147 on behalf of The Arc of Colorado.

The Arc of Colorado serves as the state chapter in a statewide network of 14 local Arc chapters. Together, we provide advocacy, education, and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

The goal of this bill is to make sure people with disabilities are safer, more supported, and better protected in host homes through stronger coordination and oversight.

Host homes are an important part of Colorado's system of community-based supports. They help people with disabilities live in the community, build independence, and receive care in a more home-like setting. For many individuals, they are a lifeline that makes community living possible.

However, right now, oversight and information across host home systems can be fragmented.

For example, when communication between agencies or providers is not well coordinated, important information may not always be fully shared. This can affect the consistency of care a person receives.

When coordination breaks down, people can be left without consistent support or clear accountability. These gaps can affect a person's stability, trust, and sense of safety in a host home where they depend on consistent support.

When systems fail, it can feel like a chain reaction where people are left without a safety net. This reflects gaps in coordination within the system, not a lack of intent or care from providers or agencies.

These are not abstract issues. Behind every part of this system is a real person who depends on it for safety, stability, and daily support.

People with disabilities deserve to live in environments where they are safe, supported, and treated with respect. That includes systems that protect their dignity and ensure accountability across providers.

At the center of this are people and their right to live safely and with dignity.

Without strong protections, people with disabilities can be left vulnerable in systems that are meant to support them.

This bill improves coordination, accountability, and oversight in the host home system to help ensure safe and reliable living environments.

This bill helps ensure that people with disabilities are not left vulnerable in a system meant to support them, and can live safely with dignity in their homes.

For these reasons, I support HB 1147 and urge a yes vote.