



April 19, 2023

Dear Majority Leader Moreno:

On behalf of Children's Hospital Colorado, thank you for your efforts to partner with Colorado nonprofit hospitals on changes to current state community benefit accountability reporting requirements under House Bill 23-1243. On behalf of Children's Hospital Colorado, we support the bill and the legislature's intent to ensure that hospitals meet the needs of the communities served. At Children's Hospital Colorado, we see more, treat more and heal more kids than any hospital in our seven-state region and we are proud to provide care to all children who need it regardless of their circumstances or ability to pay. We treat children with the most complex and rare conditions, and we take a comprehensive approach of the health of children and their families by treating physical, emotional, and social needs, so that all children can reach their full health potential.

We know that every child's well-being is deeply connected to the health and wellness of the community. We understand that we can't provide complete care for our children if we don't also understand and care for our local neighborhoods. This is why we work to assess, quantify, validate and prioritize the needs of families and children in our area, partnering with the communities we serve to develop responsive plans, programming and interventions designed to reach our communities and ultimately, improve health outcomes. In 2021, Children's Hospital Colorado provided federally-defined community benefit worth more than \$300 million. This far exceeds what our tax liability would have been, and our community benefit as a proportion of our overall budget is among the highest in the nation.

We appreciate the collaboration with the proponents to amend the bill in the House to address initial concerns about alignment with federal community benefit standards such as health professional education, medical research, and Medicaid shortfalls. For example, Children's Hospital Colorado currently funds pediatric education and workforce expansion at three times the federal government's allotment - investing more than \$25 million a year to train pediatric medical residents across primary care, specialty care, dental care, and mental health. After the residents complete their training at Children's Hospital Colorado, 61% of these providers stay and practice in Colorado - thus expanding access to greatly needed pediatric care across the state. We also heavily invest in the academic training and professional development of other critically needed healthcare professions including nursing, behavioral health, dentistry, and advanced practice care.

House Bill 23-1243 details a stakeholder process and extensive regulatory authority for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, and we look forward to actively contributing to the rulemaking process because the decisions will be consequential for our community benefit efforts. While the bill does not contain timelines delineating expectations for implementation of these changes, we are thankful to the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing for sending a letter to communicate the planned timing of a stakeholder process that will begin after September 1, 2023, and that full implementation will take effect no sooner than July 1, 2024.

Thank you for your leadership and partnership as we build on the community benefits that nonprofit hospitals provide to improve public health, increase access to services, and strengthen Colorado communities.

Sincerely,

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CC: Rep. Amabile
Senate Health and Human Services Committee



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