

HB22-1199 Visitation Requirements Healthcare Facilities

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

House Health & Insurance 1:30 pm | Room Old (2)

Written Testimony: Oppose

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Jessica Kostelnik, and I'm a government affairs manager at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. I'm here on behalf of the Chamber and our state-wide affiliate, the Colorado Competitive Council (C3), to express our opposition to HB 1199.

This bill undermines businesses' right to manage risk within their own facilities and removes authority from health care experts to make decisions about the safety of their patients and staff.

We are concerned about the slippery slope nature of telling care facilities who should be allowed on their premises and when.

We understand that this is more than just a business issue, it's also deeply personal. We trust our partners in health care, who are the experts on this subject, to manage the safety of their patients, staff, and visitors with compassion and due diligence. We know that at this juncture in the pandemic, Colorado's hospitals are transitioning out of pandemic protocols and back to business as usual of their own volition. The legislature does not need to interject itself into that transition, nor write into statute limitations on medical facilities who may need that flexibility and agency in the future.

Medical providers are an indispensable part of our society—and this has never been more true than in the last two years. As such, it is our duty to allow them to perform their jobs to the best of their abilities, and to trust that they know how to do this.

We urge the members of this committee to vote no on this bill.