

Senate Health & Human Services

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SB22-027 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Julie Reiskin None Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition	<p>Dear Senators:</p> <p>Thank you for allowing written testimony. I am writing on the behalf of the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition. We are neutral on this bill as we have seen that the PDMP can be useful for patients who need opioids or benzos for legitimate medical reasons and use them appropriately, to prove that they are not misusing these medications. We also appreciate language regarding balancing. Our only hesitation is that these medications, particularly opioids, have been so demonized that most physicians are afraid to write prescriptions. This leaves pain patients without the ability to have primary care and sometimes any care. Doctors look this up and see someone has a prescription history and refuses them outright when someone moves or their doctor retires or leaves the practice. It is important that doctors are not persecuted when trying to meet patients needs and should not be made to be afraid to write legitimate prescriptions for people that are taking medication responsibly. We often see people whose ability to function is dependent on getting these medications. When people are left in pain they often develop numerous other problems including strokes, heart attacks, falls, etc. Taking away the ability to manage pain also leads to mental health issues including suicide. We understand that the law does not prohibit writing prescriptions appropriately including for long term use, and that the database can be helpful. We appreciate legislative expression that your intent is not to ban these medications nor is it to penalize physicians that treat patients with these medications.</p>