

House Finance
04/01/2021 Upon Adjournment
Testimony - SB21-145 Extending Expiring Tax Check-offs

Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Text of Testimony
Mrs.	Christi	Cahill	For	Colorado Cancer Coalition	<p>Thank you Madam Chair Bird, and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I am Christi Cahill the Executive Director of the Colorado Cancer Coalition and I am writing in support of this bill to extend the Tax- Check offs. We are listed as the Colorado Cancer Fund.</p> <p>This revenue source has been vital to our mission of eliminating the burden of cancer in Colorado.</p> <p>Colorado is unique to other states in that cancer is the leading cause of death. 23 Coloradans die a day of cancer, Almost 1 an hour. The revenue from the voluntary contribution form helps us address gaps in cancer prevention and cancer support across Colorado.</p> <p>With the funds received we've supported the following types of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Sun safety messaging and skin cancer prevention in rural schools and on the Western Slope.-Financial assistance and medically tailored meals to improve quality of life for patients-Colorectal cancer screening tests to detect colorectal cancer early when it is easier to treat and less costly to treat.-HPV Vaccination Education for underserved communities to prevent cervical cancer-Motivational Interview training for rural navigators to increase cancer screening rates in rural Colorado where incidence rates and mortality rates are often higher.-Spanish speaking retreats to improve quality of life and connections with others which is vital for recovery <p>This is just a sampling of the work that's been done.</p> <p>These funds help us implement the Colorado Cancer Plan which is the road map for reducing the burden of cancer in Colorado. Without these funds, we won't be able to address community needs when it comes to cancer prevention and cancer support.</p> <p>We support this bill and rely on the funding to try and ensure 23 Coloradans won't die tomorrow from cancer. Thank you for you for the opportunity to provide testimony.</p>

SB21-145 Extending Expiring Tax Check Offs

Position: **Support**

Committee: House Finance

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Madam Chair and members of the committee,

The Alzheimer's Association of Colorado respectfully requests that you support SB 145.

Our organization has participated in the Tax Check Off program since 2005. These funds pay for direct services to individuals and families impacted by Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

- Last year, we quickly transformed all of our mostly in-person services into virtual ones and kept serving Coloradans who needed us.
- All of our services are free of charge to those participating.
- We also support staff in residential care communities and residents of other states who are long-distance caregiving for someone living in Colorado.
- The services we provide are not provided by any government entity; thus, we are filling a critical service gap for these individuals and families.

This revenue has become even more important to our organization over the past year. Our organization is primarily funded through donations, and most of our revenue was generated by mass-attended in-person events. When social distancing restrictions prevented those gatherings from happening in the same way, our revenue dropped significantly. Our organization responded by transforming those events to virtual gatherings, cutting costs and reducing staffing as a last resort. However, our current financial situation makes the revenue we collect from the Tax Check Off program even more important to us and those we serve.

Additionally, the number of Coloradans who need us is, unfortunately, only growing. The number of people living with or caring for someone with dementia is set to increase by 21% over just the next 4 years ([Colorado dementia facts and figures](#)). That's because our population is aging, and age is the biggest risk factor for dementia. The funding generated by our participation in the Tax Check Off program can help us meet the needs of these Coloradans.

I ask you to vote "yes" on SB 145 to help make that possible.



FACT SHEET- HB 21-XXX EXTEND THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND TAX CHECKOFF

BOTTOM LINE: This bill keeps the Military Family Relief Fund (CRS 28-3-1501 et seq.) on the state income tax check-off form.

Why do we need this bill?

The MFRF is a critical tool to support military families while their service member is deployed, either overseas or on State Active Duty. This fund has been heavily relied upon in the past year as COVID-related call-ups for the Colorado National Guard have been historic in both the number of call-ups and the duration. The grants are managed through the Colorado National Guard Foundation and the last three years' grants/amounts are as follows:

2020 (64 Grants) \$196,904.53

2019 (56 Grants) \$172,067.17

2018 (9 Grants) \$20,478.97

This tax check-off is in the top 5 of all tax checkoffs in terms of annual donations. The Military Family Relief Fund is due to sunset this year unless extended.

What are the grants used for?

The grants are available to active duty, reserve, or Colorado National Guard members or their families to “help families defray the costs of food, housing, utilities, medical services, and other expenses that may be difficult to afford when a family member leaves civilian employment for active military duty, is on active military duty in a hostile fire zone, or is called to state active duty by executive order of the governor.” (CRS 28-3-1501)

Is there a fiscal note to this bill?

No, this fund is entirely supported by the generosity of Coloradans who choose to give by selecting this fund on their annual income tax form.