

HOUSE

Concerning State Agencies Addressing Health Disparities in Colorado

Good afternoon Madame Chair and committee members. My name is Jean Nofles, volunteer state president for AARP of Colorado and its 660,000 plus members in Colorado.

AARP strongly supports SB21-181, and this is why:

- SB21-181 moves toward equity in underrepresented communities through changes in policy and state systems. This is as close to a core change as is possible for a state agency.
- It engages the underrepresented community through investment in community organizations close to the underrepresented people.
- It requires a strategic plan and also requires state agencies to participate in the work group to 1) develop the plan, and 2) ensure coordination in addressing the disparities in each agency's respective area.
- It seeks to mitigate the "silo effect" in equity related work across state agencies.
- It specifically targets prevention and early treatment of cancer, cardiovascular disease and pulmonary disease in underrepresented populations.
- The bill recognizes the need to disrupt the school to prison pipeline with its inclusion of the Department of Education and Department of Corrections as commission members.
- It recognizes the benefits of higher education and the cost of education, for the underrepresented, with the inclusion of the Department of Higher Education on the commission.

SB21-181 helps the full community but will be especially beneficial to the aging underrepresented whose lives are made more difficult by disparities in the social determinants of health, as they are compounded throughout a lifetime.

AARP strongly supports this bill and requests that you strongly support it with a resounding "YES" vote.

Thank you, to the sponsors of this bill. Thank you, Committee, for listening.

Written Testimony in Support of SB21-181, Strategic Plan Address Health Disparities
Rebecca Dubroff, Government Relations Director, American Heart Association
May 18, 2021

My name is Rebecca Dubroff and I serve as a Government Relations Director for the American Heart Association. The American Heart Association (AHA) is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. Heart disease is the number one killer worldwide, and stroke ranks second globally. We want to see a world free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. In partnership with millions of volunteers and supporters, AHA funds innovative scientific research, fights for stronger public health policies, and provides lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat disease.

The American Heart Association fully supports equitable investments in social, economic, and environmental conditions to achieve optimal health, mental health, and well-being for all. With the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association released new [prevention guidelines](#) recognizing "socioeconomic inequalities are strong determinants" of heart disease and stroke risk.

This bill will provide much needed funding to specifically help historically underrepresented and under resourced communities address these problems. By tackling these issues, we can create a healthier community for all people.

The American Heart Association asks for your support of SB21-181, Strategic Plan Address Health Disparities.

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

SB21-181 Equity Strategic Plan Address Health Disparities

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Manley Daniel For Self	I have been working in the health field for 12 years and have witnessed the disparities and inequality that runs throughout the health care system. I believe this bill will address those issues and get us onto a path of fairness and equality in health care.