

Senate Health & Human Services  
 02/16/2023 01:30 PM  
 SB23-063 Assisted Living Residences Referrals  
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jeanette Hensley Against Colorado Center for Aging	<p>Colorado Center for Aging - CCA strongly oppose SB23-063 Assisted Living Residences Referrals. HB19-1268 which provided the Assisted living residence - referral agency - disclosures requires an individual or entity who, for a fee, refers a prospective resident to an assisted living residence to disclose any business relationships that the referring party has with the assisted living residence. The entity must disclose that the assisted living residence pays for the referral. If an older adult by simply visiting a website or calling an online senior service directory, their name, email and phone could be captured and put into a "referral contract for future housing placement for 3 years" with no notice to the older adult. With today's Internet privacy protection, this was an unfair practice. It is not right that by filling out an online inquiry form on a consumer's name, email and phone can be "owned" by anyone for any length of time for the purpose of paying a "referral housing placement fee." The problem is if the needs of the older adult changes and they do not want to move into an ALR, then the calls and emails from the housing providers do not stop for one year. This is spam and harassment directed to the older adult. If there is a one-year contract, the older adult should be able to cancel it within the year. Colorado Assisted Living Association (CALA) and the National Placement &amp; Referral Alliance of Colorado (CoPRA) worked on three bills in 2019 and 2020 to rein in the housing placement industry and protect the older adult. These bills are working as intended, protecting the older adult and establishing rules for the housing placement industry in Colorado. In conclusion, the changes that Bill SB23-063 are asking for are not needed and would undermine the protection that, HB19-1268 and HB20-1101 put in place to protect older adults. CCA does not oppose electronic agreements so long as the older adult understands that by signing an agreement their name will be shared with a few (we request a specific number be listed, not just a reasonable number) assisted living residences; but we do strongly oppose that in SB23-068 that the electronic/internet referral agency can "own" an older adult's name and referral for one year.</p>