

House Health & Insurance  
 01/31/2023 Upon Adjournment  
 HB23-1116 Contracts Between Carriers & Providers  
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Faith Halverson-Ramos For COMBINE	<p>Dear Committee,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to submit personal testimony for this bill. As a licensed mental health provider in solo practice who takes insurance, I am in support of this bill because I do not appreciate insurance companies clawing into my already lower contracted fee with them by charging me for direct deposit or virtual credit cards, which I did not request. However, as a member of COMBINE and the Independent Provider Network serving the Medicaid population, I don't believe that this bill goes far enough.</p> <p>According to the Colorado Health Institute's October 2018 report, "The Ways of the RAEs: Regional Accountable Entities and Their Role in Colorado Medicaid's Newest Chapter," with the exception of Colorado Access, every other RAE that covers behavioral health services for Medicaid is controlled by a major health insurance company. Beacon Health Options has an ownership stake in Region Four (which serves southeast and central Colorado), and is a subcontractor providing administrative services in Region Two (northeast Colorado). Anthem, Inc. has a 50% ownership stake in the Colorado Community Health Alliance (CCHA) in Regions Six (centered on Boulder and Jefferson Counties) and Seven (Colorado Springs and surrounding counties). UnitedHealthcare is the parent company of Rocky Mountain Health Plans, which serves as the Region One RAE on the western slope.</p> <p>Therefore, I believe that Title 25-5 which relates to Medicaid, needs to be added to this bill in order to accurately reflect the reality of providing accessible and affordable behavioral health services to Coloradans.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Faith Halverson-Ramos, MA, LPC, MT-BC            Owner and Therapist at SoundWell Music Therapy in Longmont, CO</p>