

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services  
 03/21/2023 01:30 PM  
 HB23-1200 Improved Outcomes Persons Behavioral Health  
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Kristina Tober For herself	<p>In 2019, our son went into crisis. He has profound autism, is non-verbal and had significant behaviors. He's also 6'3". We had to petition our insurance (individual plan, Anthem) to allow him to do an out-patient stay at CU Children's Neuropsychiatric unit. They only allowed a month. Because of that, he went through an intensely traumatic month of trialing new meds -- the process was rushed because we knew we only had 4 weeks. Needless to say, we were unable to learn anything from the stay, and he ended up worse. A year later, we were left having to call the emergency room every time he went into crisis. There are absolutely no programs in our state that will service this population. Our son had two seizures in the ER-- both induced by excess amounts of Ketamine that the EMTs administered to sedate him. We went to Porter Hospital ER, Denver Health -- no mental health programs at all, let alone any supports for a teen/adult with acuity issues (because he is non-verbal the assumption is he couldn't be treated in-patient). CO has a significant issue -- both in terms of the quality/quantity of mental health services, but also access. By providing a voucher system for families in need -- staff is confident that they will be paid for their services, and families can access a great number of providers beyond what's covered under Medicaid programs.</p>
KRISTEN BARA Against herself	<p>I oppose HB23-1200. This is yet another fiscally irresponsible program to band-aid the mental health crisis you've created due to poor covid-policy and lockdowns. These lockdowns have increased our rates of depression, suicide, domestic abuse, and drug overdose.</p> <p>As a former mental health professional who was illegally fired for her job due to your experimental drug mandate and had her religious and medical privacy violated by her employer to keep her job, I have since struggled mentally, physically, and financially from the actions of Governor Polis and your failure as my legislators to protect us. This had nothing to do with protecting Coloradans and had everything to do with the fact that my employer was heavily dependent on Medicaid funding.</p> <p>Athletes are now dropping dead, young healthy people are suffering from myocarditis, and all cause mortality is now at its highest nationwide. And unlike these anti-science covid policies forced on us that did nothing to protect the health of Coloradans, there is scientific data to back this up. I know many people who have experienced serious adverse reactions from this experimental shot. Now our healthcare system is experiencing strain since healthcare workers</p>

	<p>were forced to choose between an unnecessary, deadly vaccine and their jobs. Instead of using that federal covid funding to push destructive and unhealth ideology on our school children to make them hate themselves, it could have been used for those injured by your mandated shot.</p> <p>We all know this is another excuse for the government control of our healthcare system. And what has more governmental involvement gotten us, a mental health crisis in our state. This program will also put an additional strain on the taxpayer who is already struggling financially. Maybe you should focus on creating policy to improve the economic conditions in our state so people could work. be able to support their families without anxiety and find meaning in their lives. That will help our mental health crisis not another wasteful government program. Please oppose this bill.</p>
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