



February 14, 2022

Testimony in support of SB22-111 Infection Prevention Grants to Nursing Facilities

Dear Chair Gonzales and members of the Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB22-111. LeadingAge Colorado is a statewide trade association representing the continuum of senior living and care providers including nursing homes. We are very supportive of this bill that sets up a method to award grant funding to nursing facilities for projects aimed at infection prevention and control.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, nursing facilities have seen significant and compounding cost increases for personal protective equipment, supplies, monitoring and reporting, enhanced infection control and hero pay for frontline caregivers. The COVID-19 virus has disproportionately impacted elderly and frail adults living in congregate settings and the ongoing pandemic is taking its toll on residents and staff. With low operating margins and decreased occupancy due to COVID-19, facilities are struggling to absorb rising costs, improve the quality of services provided to residents, and comply with all the regulations.

This bill would allow facilities to apply for grant funding from the nursing home civil monetary penalty fund using a shortened application and approval process. Funds could be requested to help cover the costs of enhanced infection prevention and control education for staff, workforce support and physical enhancements. These items are valuable tools in controlling the spread of COVID-19 and providing grant funding to help financially strapped facilities cover their costs is a measure we support.

Thank you for your consideration and we appreciate Sen. Smallwood bringing forth this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Lively".

Deborah Lively
Director of Public Policy and Public Affairs
LeadingAge Colorado