

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services
 03/04/2022 Upon Adjournment
 SB22-102 Transparency Out-of-home Placements Dev Disab
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
meighen lovelace For Colorado Cross Disability Coalition	<p>Hello, my name is Meighen Lovelace, and I'm submitting written testimony today for the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition (CCDC). Today CCDC rises in support of SB22-102.</p> <p>CCDC is in complete agreement that the CO-DHS needs to develop new rules (for children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities) regarding: "Access to the interdisciplinary appeals review panel for the appeals process for children and youth who have been determined to be ineligible for the program of services for children and youth who have been placed out of the home."</p> <p>What we know is that transparency and accountability are of the utmost importance when we are caring for our most vulnerable populations in the state. A young person with complex medical and mental health needs should not be denied access to desperately needed care solely due to procedural flaws they have no control over. SB22-102 will assure that adequate care is accessible to the Colorado IDD Community.</p> <p>CCDC further believes that the reporting process proposed in this bill should be carried out by a non-affiliated third party provider to further insure that these facilities are appropriately caring for individuals with IDD with dignity and respect.</p> <p>Lastly, with regard to additional members on the panel; CCDC is willing to explore this as long as we have assurance that any new members have first person experience with the IDD community. We ask for this fundamental qualification as an effort to help with guidance and to help avoid further misconceptions the public may have when it concerns Colorado's IDD population.</p>



Please Vote Yes on SB 22-102

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 102, concerning increasing transparency concerning programs for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are in out-of-home placements.

My name is Jane Johnston, the Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator, at The Arc of Colorado. The Arc of Colorado promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and actively promotes their full inclusion in the community throughout their lifetimes. With over 2,500 members, there are 14 local chapters of The Arc serving 9,500 people annually.

Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD), especially those with the highest level of disability, **require and deserve stability and consistency**. We believe this bill will promote this necessary stability for children in treatment. This bill simply adds a vital appeals process for families whose children with severe IDD may be discharged from residential treatment before their treatment plan is complete.

This bill is an important beginning, to address the placement crisis in Colorado for children with high levels of IDD. The current appeals process does not allow for appeal of early discharge from treatment. This bill will address this "early discharge" concern.

- Children with IDD deserve access to treatment that is stable, consistent and complete.
- Children with IDD deserve to be treated in-state and not be moved to out-of-state facilities before their treatment plan is completed.

Vote YES!

SB 102 ensures that children with IDD in treatment will be afforded a more consistent appeals process. This is a simple solution to ensure children are not unduly or unfairly discharged from treatment before their treatment plan is complete. We stand with Children's Hospital and CDHS and strongly urge a yes vote on Senate Bill 102.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Jane Johnston, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator, The Arc of Colorado