

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

03/15/2022 01:30 PM

HB22-1114 Transp Services For Medicaid Waiver Recipients

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Virginia Gebhart For Self	<p>The importance of nonmedical transportation services for Medicaid recipients and the differential racial impact on people of color when those services are lacking can be addressed by this bill. It would expand those needed nonmedical transportation services for people enrolled in certain Medicaid waiver programs. This would be an advancement toward health justice and equity.</p> <p>Please vote yes to pass this bill.</p>

Sherri A, Trudeau
13631 E. Marina Drive, Apt. 408
Aurora, CO 80014
PH: 720-442-1445
Email: strudeau0457@gmail.com

March 12, 2022

Colorado State Legislators
Colorado State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: House Bill 1114 - Transportation Services for Medicaid Waiver Recipients

Dear Colorado State Legislators:

Let me introduce myself. My name is Sherri Trudeau and I am a 64-year-old widow. My adult son, Andrew, is 29. Andrew is on the autism spectrum and also has a chromosomal defect called a Robertsonian Translocation of the 13th Chromosome. The defects impacts are not fully known but are known to create cognitive impairment and prevent fertility. Andrew is socially impaired to an extent - like many on the autism spectrum. He received Special Education services from age 3 until he completed high school at age 19. Since high school and with support, he completed two certification programs at Pitkins Technical Institute. We worked with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation for job coaching and placement. Andrew was hired by King Soopers in March 2018.

Transportation continues to be an issue for Andrew as he does not drive. He has difficulty attending to more than one task at a time as is required to learn to drive. Due to our home's proximity to our local King Soopers, he is able to walk to work for his part-time job as a Courtesy Clerk. He can walk to the store in about 30-35 minutes. The store is closer to us than the closest RTD bus stop. However, it is a significant challenge in inclement weather – particularly when very cold. During our recent very cold days, he paid for a Lyft ride to and from work at a cost equivalent to 2 hours of his 4-hour work shift. In addition, we limit his available hours to allow him to walk during daylight hours for his safety. For all other transportation needs, he relies on me or a friend to drive where he needs to go. He occasionally uses an RTD bus, as well. He receives a discounted pass which helps, but, again, he has to walk to the nearest stop or to Nine Mile Station or rely on a ride. I work full time as a Special Education teacher so cannot provide a ride during the school week. Friends are not available all the time. If he needs a ride unexpectedly, it is not usually easily available. I believe Andrew deserves the right to the same ease of transportation as his non-disabled peers. He should not be limited in his desired activities in the community because of the difficulty getting to and from those activities. My concern is also for the future – I will not always be here to attend to his transportation and other needs. It is the biggest concern of every parent of a child with special needs – what will happen when we can't be there to help our children?

It is my understanding that *House Bill 1114 - Transportation Services for Medicaid Waiver Recipients* will add an important benefit for those like my son who need transportation access without relying on friends or having to find available public transit services. I implore you to approve and pass this important measure to allow my son and others with disabilities to access needed transportation so they have the same access to the community as we all expect and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Sherri A. Trudeau

Sherri A. Trudeau