



### **Please Vote Yes on House Bill 22-1114**

Good afternoon. My name is Jane Johnston, I am the Public Policy and Advocacy Coordinator for The Arc of Colorado. The Arc of Colorado promotes and protects the human and civil rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively promotes full inclusion in the community throughout each individual's lifetime. With over 2,500 members, there are 14 local chapters of The Arc serving 9,500 people annually. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 22-1114, which The Arc of Colorado strongly supports.

House Bill 1114 improves the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by eliminating barriers when it comes to choices in transportation. Many adults with disabilities lack sufficient access to reliable, accessible, and safe modes of public and private transportation. This bill addresses these barriers by offering the same choices in transportation that are already available to people without IDD. Covering private transportation under certain Medicaid waiver services will allow people with IDD to participate more fully in their communities, employment, recreation, and relationships.

My experience as a person who lives in Marble, Colorado and who works in Carbondale, is that public transportation is extremely scarce and unreliable in our rural communities. In these more remote communities, oftentimes limited choices in transportation leads to isolation. This bill will bring more choices to our remote and rural communities and increase community access and participation.

In conclusion, HB 1114 ensures equal access to the community for individuals with IDD, moving us closer to a more equitable and accessible society, which is why The Arc of Colorado is asking for a YES vote on HB 1114.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

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