

House Health & Insurance

04/20/2022 01:30 PM

SB22-156 Medicaid Prior Authorization & Recovery Of Payment

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Blair Skinner For Early Childhood Wellness Place</p>	<p>Thank you, members of the House Health and Insurance Committee, I appreciate your time and attention,</p> <p>My name is Blair Skinner, LMFT. I am the Owner and Director of Early Childhood Wellness Place in Broomfield where we work with children 0-12 with both private insurance and Medicaid. Currently we serve close to 150 children and have nearly 100 more on our wait list. I am also the President of the Broomfield Early Childhood Council, and a member of COMBINE.</p> <p>I support SB22-156. This bill is an important step towards eliminating ineffective processes that create significant uncertainty for both providers who serve families with Medicaid, and those families we serve. As clinicians we are often unsure if we will be able to continue to work with Medicaid given our current standing.</p> <p>As a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, I am held to a Code of Ethics in which “commitment to service, advocacy, and public participation are responsibilities equal to that of clinical excellence.” I am personally and professionally committed to working with children and families on Medicaid. However, this is not something I am certain I will be able to continue doing.</p> <p>Following a long and arduous application process, we are informed of the terms of the RAE contract we are finally able to sign, but the terms are non-negotiable, and we have zero guarantee that the terms won’t change. As small providers we have no ability to appeal or negotiate with the large RAEs and their attorneys. The RAEs write into the contracts that they are free to change any terms at any time without any warning. This can result in decreased pay, unreasonable clawbacks, and increase in administrative and clinical workload for small providers who are not paid for their administrative or billing time.</p> <p>Early Childhood Wellness Place has been lucky not to suffer the level of clawbacks that you have heard about from many of my colleagues, but their struggles loom large and create significant uncertainty for independent providers state-wide.</p> <p>Thank you again for your time today. Independent providers and our clients are counting on your yay vote.</p>