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Colorado General Assembly
House Health & Human Services Committee
200 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80203

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB25-121 – Medicaid Reimbursement for Vagus Nerve Stimulation

Dear Chair Brown, Vice Chair Lieder, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express the support of the Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care for SB25-121, which seeks to provide Medicaid reimbursement for Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) therapy. Our organization is devoted to insuring comprehensive publicly financed, privately delivered health care for all Coloradans. This critical bill will improve access to an FDA-approved, effective treatment for individuals with drug resistant epilepsy who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare coverage.

It is our understanding, based on clinical evidence, that VNS therapy can be life-changing for individuals suffering from severe and refractory epilepsy. VNS has been demonstrated to significantly reduce seizure frequency and improve quality of life for individuals with epilepsy.

Currently, Medicaid's lack of reimbursement for this therapy presents a significant barrier to access. Without coverage, many patients are left without viable options, increasing their risk of hospitalization, disability, and diminished overall well-being. Providing Medicaid reimbursement for VNS will not only enhance patient outcomes but will also be cost-effective in the long run by reducing emergency room visits and hospital admissions associated with uncontrolled seizures.

I urge this committee to support SB25-121 and ensure that Medicaid recipients in Colorado have equitable access to this essential treatment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Potter".

James R. Potter
Board Member