

Dear Chair Fields and Members of the Committee,

Boulder County appreciates the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of HB22 1157 Utilization of Demographic Data by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

As you are well aware, disparities exist in how various diseases impact communities in our state and nation. For example, over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, racial and ethnic disparities became evident to even more Coloradans as tragically, [people of color were more likely to be hospitalized or die from COVID-19 in our state and nation.](#)<sup>1</sup>

HB22-1157 requires our state and now local health agencies to collect data on how diseases are impacting people with different racial and ethnic backgrounds, disabilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities. With this information, these departments can make specific changes to their programs and interventions to address disparities. Most importantly, they can measure whether those programs and interventions have been successful in eliminating disparities.

Boulder County especially appreciates the language to protect the identities of people providing data and understands and appreciates that the sharing of this data from individuals is completely optional.

Thank you for your consideration of Boulder County's input on this bill and thank you Senator Jaquez Lewis for your sponsorship of HB22-1157.

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<sup>1</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation: Covid-19 Cases and Deaths by Race/Ethnicity: Current Data and Changes over Time. Accessed from: <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/covid-19-cases-and-deaths-by-race-ethnicity-current-data-and-changes-over-time/>