

Thank you to the House Health and Insurance Committee for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Linda Schiller and I am writing on behalf of Young Invincibles to support Senate Bill 22-098, Program Allowing Redispensing Of Unused Drugs, because access to affordable medication is an incredibly important issue for young adults in Colorado.

Last year, I volunteered with an organization to survey people about prescription drug costs and how these costs impacted them. I heard countless stories about Coloradans choosing between paying for rent and groceries or paying for their medication. People also talked about rationing their medications so that they could cut down on costs, or limiting their own medications so that they could afford meds for their loved ones. It was heartbreaking to hear these stories of incredible suffering and feel as though there was nothing that I could do to help.

These stories weren't just stories, they are part of a larger trend in the U.S. and in our state - prescription drugs are increasingly expensive, and ordinary people are the ones paying the price. In 2019, 10.8% of Coloradans did not fill a prescription due to cost.¹ However, this varied by geographic area; for example, in Pueblo County, 18.3% reported this.² It's a dangerous problem for many of your constituents. Even though I couldn't help the Coloradans who shared their stories with me about prescription drug costs, there are things that you can do to help. Creating a drug reuse opportunity program in our state would empower people to afford the medication they need without having to make these difficult decisions, and it would prevent the unnecessary waste of important medications.

Prescriptions are for people, not landfills.

With this bill, Colorado can take an important step to enable our residents to access the medications they need, regardless of cost or insurance. I support Senate Bill 22-098 and I urge you to vote yes. Thank you!

¹ "Colorado Health Access Survey| coloradohealthinstitute.org." 30 Sep. 2021, <https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/colorado-health-access-survey-chas>. Accessed 23 Feb. 2022.

² Ibid.