



Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Good afternoon Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Kyley Burress and I'm a legislative and policy advocate with Colorado Counties Inc. Colorado Counties Inc or CCI is the statewide association of County Commissioners, we represent 61 of the 64 counties in the state. I'm writing to you today to share CCI's position on HB22-1056 Emergency Temporary Care for Children. CCI's position on this bill is **'monitor'**. Counties sincerely appreciate the work the bill sponsors have done and their willingness to find solutions to address the continuum of care issues in the juvenile justice system. Amendment L.001 was adopted in the House and is an amendment that Counties brought forward and support. Counties support this addition to the bill for the following reasons:

1. With the amendment the bill will offer a short-term placement option that is included in the current screening tool known as the Juvenile Detention Screening and Assessment Guide or JDSAG- which is the screening mechanism the bill sponsors mentioned earlier.
2. We hope that the short-term stay, which is up to 5 days, will allow more children and youth to return safely to their families and communities without involving them in another system.
3. After a child has been arrested and assessed, the up to 5 days which is being proposed is often needed to allow parents time to make arrangements to come and get their child, or even take a cooling off day or two before getting their child. There is no need to involve these families in child welfare unless the county is ordered to place a child through probation or if abuse and neglect is present. In those circumstances counties are prepared to intervene.

We are very supportive of kids getting supports and services without inappropriately and disproportionately involving them in another system.

Thank you for your time and consideration and thank you again to the bill sponsor for bringing this important legislation forward and for continuing to work with us to make sure we get this right.

Kyley Burress, Legislative and Policy Advocate, CCI