



Support for HB21-1187

Thank you Chairperson Michaelson-Jenet and members of the Committee,

I am Christiano Sosa, Executive Director, The Arc of Colorado advocating for the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Department has made herculean efforts to bring this bill before you over several years. Building a high-performing conflict-free case management system is crucial to families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We have had the opportunity to work with the department from concept to design including amendments - all with a focus on families and individuals with IDD.

- **This bill offers simplicity:** By eliminating the third-party broker, families are closer to a “one-stop” shop to get their needs met. An important element of this bill is that it puts the person at the center of the supports and services that they need. It streamlines functions that would have been accessed in different locations and through different processes.
- **This bill offers flexibility.** In addition to simplicity, by removing statutorily binding language, the Department will be better able to embrace stakeholder feedback. Parents, families, and individuals with IDD know best what works for them and to be on the front end of design is how the best rules and regulations are made.
- **This bill is nimble and person-centered:** As single-entry points join the fray, a home for all waivers will be critical as well consistent processes, determinations, and case-management activities among other critical services. It is efficient and it is time. The changes will ensure that services are delivered to individuals in a manner that facilitates choice, consumer direction, and removes conflicts of interest.

In conclusion, person-centered planning should be the foundation for any changes. Case managers are key to person-centered processes and are central to access a personalized mix of paid and non-paid services. **Please support HB21-1187.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Sosa'.

Christiano Sosa
Executive Director

The Arc of Colorado
1580 Logan St. Suite 730
Denver, CO. 80203
www.thearcofco.org