

Witness Signup List

Senate Health & Human Services

03/03/2021 1:30 PM

Testimony - SB21-107 Honoring Carrie Ann Lucas

First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Testifying	Text of Testimony	Registered
Ashley	Wheeland	For	Women's Lobby of Colorado Colorado Office of Respondent	Remotely		3/3/2021 14:08
Alison	Butler	For	Parents' Counsel	Remotely		3/3/2021 10:20
					<p>CCDC is extremely supportive of SB 21-107. We want to thank Senator Danielson for bringing this bill. This bill was announced at her memorial service a year and a half ago and passed the Senate unanimously last year. Due to COVID related issues it was pulled so that there could be a full hearing in both chambers this year. I do not think any of us last May thought we would still be in the pandemic during the 2021 session..but here we are.</p> <p>Carrie Ann Lucas was an instrumental part of the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition. She came to us in the 90's and then became our legal assistant. That was not enough for her and she went to law school after experiencing firsthand unacceptable discrimination against disabled parents in the child welfare system. Not only did she go to law school so she could fight back against these regressive policies, she ended up adopting four disabled children who are now proud thriving disabled adults and fostered several more. She was the recipient of the prestigious Equal Justice Works fellowship following law school and started the Center for the Rights of Parents with Disabilities where she represented parents. This spun off to become it's own nonprofit but she was so good at this the state Office of Respondent Parent Council recruited her to work for the state to improve access to justice and policies. The part of the statute being named after her was a part of this important work.</p> <p>Carrie was also a role model and mentor for many disabled parents across the country. After her death we heard from people with disabilities all over the country that had been mentored and supported by Carrie to fulfill their natural dream of becoming a parent.</p> <p>Her death was untimely and premature and a reminder of how far we need to go with regard to health equity. Her death was caused by insurance company denials that created a cascade of irreversible health problems. While this bill is about parental rights, I would be remiss if I did not use this time to call attention to the fact that when we allow these issues to happen real lives are lost and our state is worse off off for it.</p>	
Julie	Reiskin	For	Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition	Submitted text	Thank you Senator Danielson and members of the committee for hearing and passing this bill.	3/3/2021 9:02