

Senate Finance

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HB21-1021 Peer Support Professionals Behavioral Health

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Jenny Hill For Self</p>	<p>May 5, 2021 RE: HB21-1021 Peer Support Professionals Behavioral Health Good Afternoon Honorable Members of the Finance Committee, My name is Jenny Hill and I live in the City & County of Denver. I am submitting written testimony in support of HB21-1021. I am testifying as a private citizen. I have volunteered and worked in the field of peer support for nearly two decades. I have trained and supervised peer support professionals. I have also trained peer support supervisors and provided technical assistance on peer support program implementation. Investing in the expansion and funding of Recovery Support Service Organizations through Medicaid billing is a cost-effective solution for Coloradoans impacted by trauma, mental health, and substance use conditions. Peer support services are evidenced based. They offer individuals the opportunity for strengths-based and empowering support for a resilient life by connecting people to the four dimensions of a life in recovery: Health, Home, Community and Purpose. Peer supporters inspire hope and remind people there is a pathway for a self-directed life without the hardship of painful and stigmatizing health conditions. Peer support professionals fill a much-needed sense of belonging and inclusion when facing the stigma of a diagnosis. Through peer support, I was empowered to reach out for support and was connected to a community of people who encouraged me to heal by focusing on my strengths. While I valued my treatment provider, peer support helped me back to an independent life fulfilling my potential. Investing in the State's recovery infrastructure will only help more people like myself find healing through recovery support services by expanding the continuum of care for people with trauma, mental health and/or substance use conditions. Thank you for considering my testimony and the important work of governing the great state of Colorado. Sincerely, Jenny Hill Jennifer.loth.hill@gmail.com 720-215-1020</p>
<p>Eric Gronemeyer For Self</p>	<p>I respectfully ask that the Senate Finance Committee approve bill HB21-1021. I work as a Peer Support Specialist in a rural community and passing this bill would add much needed support and opportunity to expand our workforce. Peer Support Professionals have the unique capacity to meet individuals where they are at and have lived experience</p>

	<p>that enables them to connect in a variety of different ways with the individuals they serve. The approval of this bill will allow for the expansion of Peer Support Services into communities across the state that are currently suffering from a lack of available behavioral health and substance use professionals. This bill will enable Peer Support Professionals to expand into areas such as courts, primary care settings, and many others without having to be tied to community mental health centers which allows for more flexibility and more opportunities to serve the communities we live in. This bill will be beneficial statewide and will create not only jobs, but will also create opportunities to strengthen and enrich communities statewide.</p> <p>Thank you, Eric G.</p>
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