

## Senate Health &amp; Human Services

## SB21-118 Alternative Response Mistreatment At-risk Adults

## Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>John Kefalas</p> <p>For</p> <p>Larimer County - Board of County Commissioners</p>	<p>Commissioner John Kefalas' Testimony for SB21-118</p> <p>Senate Health and Human Services Committee</p> <p>March 17, 2021</p> <p>Good afternoon Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Health &amp; Human Services Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB-118, concerning the creation of an alternative response pilot program that would offer another option for Adult Protective Services (APS) to address mistreatment reports of adults who may be at risk.</p> <p>My name is John Kefalas, Larimer County Commissioner, and I reside at 604 Sycamore Street, Fort Collins 80521. By the way, it's nice to see former legislative colleagues, and I am grateful for the bipartisan sponsorship of this bill.</p> <p>Larimer County is pleased to advance this legislation on behalf of several counties that have spent more than three years working on this proposal. As Colorado's aging population grows, it is important that our county-based APS systems can effectively respond using best practices that meet the needs of the vulnerable adults we serve.</p> <p>Currently, APS uses a one-size fits all approach - an investigative response for every report of potential abuse and neglect of at-risk adults, regardless of the severity of the concerns.</p> <p>There is certainly a need for an investigative or law enforcement response for those situations where the concerns are deliberate and/or involve professional caregivers. However, the majority of what APS receives as reports are low level concerns where the individual and/or their family members need support and services. These are not situations where a punitive response is warranted.</p> <p>On behalf of the LC BCC, we respectfully urge you to vote yes on SB-118 that will allow up to 15 counties to create a pilot for an alternative response in adult protection. Aging and at-risk adults need services and support so they can age well in their communities - with dignity. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

Senate Health & Human Services

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