

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

SB21-018 Continuation Of Necessary Document Program

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Chaer Robert</p> <p>For</p> <p>Colorado Center on Law and Policy</p>	<p>My name is Chaer Robert. I am Legislative Director of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. We stand with diverse communities across Colorado against poverty.</p> <p>Obtaining or replacing an ID is step one of getting on with your life. But for those on the economic brink, spending \$20 for a replacement of a birth certificate, and \$30.87 for a Colorado driver's license or \$12.67 for a Colorado ID for those under 60, the cost can stop them in their tracks. To obtain a job, rent an apartment, open a bank account or cash an IRS Economic Impact check, apply for unemployment insurance, to prove your identity to law enforcement or obtain most health care also takes an ID.</p> <p>Nonprofit organizations who work with marginalized communities struggle to help people obtain an ID, often the first step to accessing any other services. This was why the Necessary Documents program was created in 2015, and authorized for a six year period in 2016. The third-party administrator- currently Metro Caring- contracts with 26 nonprofit organizations across Colorado to provide vouchers for the essential documents needed to obtain an ID. The need for this program has been documented, with over 9000 vouchers provided in the July 2019-June 2020 fiscal year. SB018 authorizes the program's continuation, with the requirement to report on the number of documents provided and changes in ID technology or other developments that might impact the program in the future.</p> <p>We ask your support for SB 018- Continuation of the Necessary Documents Program.</p>