

In Support of HB 21-1110

My name is Tom Perille. I am a physician and president of Democrats for Life of Colorado. Today I am here to lend my support to HB21-1110 to ensure protections for people with disability and to guarantee them equal access to state services, programs, and activities. It is important to fully incorporate ADA Title II into our state law to guarantee equal opportunity and justice for all. Web access is critical to this goal.

A conservative estimate is that 4.3% of noninstitutionalized children have a disability.¹ And one in four (25.7%) noninstitutionalized US adults report a disability.² Mobility (13.7%), independent living (6.8%), hearing (5.9%), vision (4.6%) and selfcare (3.7%) are the most prevalent.² For those older than 65, the prevalence of disability jumps to 40.2% amongst whites, 46.7% amongst blacks, 50.5% amongst Hispanics, and 54.9% amongst American Indians/Alaska natives. Chances are over our lifetime, all of us will experience a physical or cognitive disability. This reflects our human condition and highlights the need for our interdependence.

DFLCO believes that every human being regardless of age, sex, sexual orientation, cognitive/physical disability, ethnicity/race, religious affiliation or financial means has equal value and inherent dignity. We all have an inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. As such, our Colorado statues should reflect these values.

HB21-1110 would make important strides in achieving equity for Coloradans with a disability. This should be one of our highest priorities in state government and worthy of our fiscal support. Please vote yes on HB21-1110.

Thomas J. Perille MD FACP FHM
President, Democrats for Life of Colorado

References;

- 1) Harniss M, et.al., Accessibility Considerations in the National Children's Study. *Frontiers in Pediatrics* 2021; 9(62): 1-9.
- 2) Okoro CA et.al., Prevalence of Disabilities and Health Care Access by Disability Status and Type Among Adults – United States, 2016, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 2018; 67(32): 882-887.