

House Business Affairs & Labor

HB21-1058 Promoting Social Distancing In Marijuana Indus

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Sarah Armstrong For Self	I strongly support this Bill for the welfare and safety of the mmj patient community! Please allow telemedicine consultations with our trusted physicians to continue!!
Rachel Adler For Self	<p>Remote MMJ telemedicine appt allowed me to have a contactless renewal of my card. Telemedicine appt and the MMJ online renewal made this possible</p> <p>Otherwise I could not have renewed my card. Also my dispensary does curbside pickup so that was contactless as well. I couldn't take a chance on getting sick so without this allowance for doc appts as well as curbside pickup I would be without my medicine for over a year.</p> <p>Thank you Rachel Adler</p>
ANGIE OFFSTEIN For Self	<p>Please keep me safe from COVID and make my life easier....vote yes to this bill!!! Please??</p> <p>Thank you in advance</p>
Michael Barrow For Self	<p>I have benefitted greatly from MMJ medicine, as I received a cancer diagnosis of mantle cell lymphoma in 2012. It has been extremely convenient and necessary for me to be able to interact with my doctor from home, without the need to travel. Therefore, I hope you extend the period indefinitely for allowing online telemedicine and sales with regard to MMJ prescriptions through my doctor.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Respectfully,, Michael Barrow</p>
Jessica Hogan For Vibrant Health Clinic	<p>Hello Legislators-</p> <p>I'm writing you on behalf of the patients at our clinic with a perspective that many other organizations do not have.</p> <p>We see patients for medical cannabis licenses and have for the last decade in Colorado Springs. The benefits we've seen from the allowance of telemedicine over the last year have been undeniable for our patients. More than 50% say that they would not be able to keep their cards active if it wasn't for video calls. They are terrified to go out in public because of their health conditions with fear of Covid.</p> <p>Medical cannabis physicians are the only category of physicians who are not allowed telemedicine -do you find this strange for a plant that has never killed anyone? Another doctor can prescribe opioids without a physical exam and this is much more dangerous for the public.</p>

	<p>Another point I'd like to touch on is the age group of 18-21 year olds. The majority of the patients we see in that age group are dependent adults who are either homebound or not able to function without the care of their parents or guardian.</p> <p>I don't understand why you want to make amendments to this bill to make it more difficult for these patients to get a card or renew their current card.</p> <p>Please consider a provision for homebound patients at the very least for this age group.</p> <p>Also, I agree that phone calls for appointments could be questionable, so telemedicine should include video calls if it's available to the patients. Some of our patients live in rural areas and video calls are not feasible with their slow internet speeds, or for our elderly patients who do not use technology - phone calls are a nice option. Currently, both video and phone calls are acceptable forms of telemedicine.</p> <p>We appreciate your time and please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions, Jessica</p>
<p>Laura Koenig For Self</p>	<p>I have worked for a medical practice that specializes in Cannabis Medicine for the last four years. Our practice has successfully moved to practicing telemedicine since the onstart of the Covid 19 virus. We continue to promote and nurture responsible physician-patient relationship with our clients. Many of our patients suffer from debilitating conditions and are immunocompromised. Many of our patients have a hard time traveling due to their condition and/or live in rural or remote locations. Many of our clients are making an appointment for their yearly renewal as the CDPHE requires.</p> <p>Telemedicine will protect our patients and our staff as well as help to stop the spread of the virus. Telemedicine makes accessing medical cannabis easier for our patients to treat often serious debilitating and disabling medical conditions and symptoms. Our clients have expressed their appreciation for the steps we have taken to keep them safe and the ease of accessibility that telemedicine provides them. I hope you will consider voting in favor of passing Bill HB21-1058. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Lauren Grant For Self</p>	<p>Thank you for hearing the testimony for this bill. I am writing in favor of this bill. In particular, for the ability of medical cannabis doctors to be able to conduct telemedicine appointments. I have a disability (and live in remote rural areas during the summers) that makes in-office appointments extremely difficult. Allowing telemedicine provides me with health equity and access to exceptional medicine (from Dr. Cohen at Holos Health). Prior to the COVID State Of Emergency, not having the same telemedicine access that I enjoy with all my other physicians seems not only discriminatory against those with disabilities, but exemplifies a narrow-minded viewpoint towards cannabis medicine physicians...and towards the medicine that has been lab-proven (in my</p>

	<p>case) to drastically improve my medical condition. Thank you for considering my testimony.</p>
<p>Barbara Bunker For Self</p>	<p>My name is Barbara, and I am the mother of a nine year old living in Colorado Springs. My daughter, Nova, has been a medical cannabis recipient in Colorado for seven years.</p> <p>Nova was born with a rare neurological condition called schizencephaly. This is a grey matter malformation of the brain, resulting in clefts in the brain- My daughter is missing nearly 70 percent of her brain. The consequences of this manifest themselves in a number of ways- including a catastrophic form of epilepsy, which her medical cannabis controls to a great extent.</p> <p>Her diagnosis also means that she has an immune system which does not function. Her body is unable to fight illnesses that other children wouldn't bat an eye at- the common cold, the flu, RSV, a plethora of illnesses could rob her of her life. This means that every single cold and flu season- we must quarantine our daughter, and ourselves. Our only means of keeping her safe is isolation from the outside world during these times.</p> <p>When covid hit, Novas team of doctors put her on a strict "virtual only" schedule. therapies, in person appointments, nursing agencies coming into our home, caseworkers coming over to coordinate her care and do redeterminations for her waiver services, all of it stopped. the outside world poses a risk to her.</p> <p>Without telehealth services in place for nova for her medical marijuana renewals in 2020 and 2021, we could have faced a devastating situation where we were forced to make a choice- let her card lapse, or have to take her out in a dangerous situation in public to keep her recommendation active. An impossible situation. telehealth services for our daughter during this time were Absolutely vital. And when covid ends, that does not change.</p> <p>Families like ours who have these amazing, wonderful children, face this dilemma on a regular basis when we are forced to take them in for routine appointments.</p> <p>I am writing you today, because it is a disservice to stay silent on these key issues that impact families like mine so very greatly. A 45 minute routine trip out for most people, is a 6 hour, backbreaking, liability for families like ours. on behalf of our families, I would ask that remote appointments stay in place for these kids and parents like myself. It would make our already difficult lives so much easier. It would be such a load of our shoulders.</p> <p>providers at children's are continuing to keep patients on telehealth even when covid ends- please consider helping us by doing the same.</p>
<p>Sarah Armstrong For</p>	<p>Telemedicine for Doctor's providing treatment regiment for Cannabis/MMJ patients DEFINITELY need to have the OPTION to</p>

<p>Self</p>	<p>utilize a tele-medicine platform -there are many MMJ patients that live in remote/rural areas of Colorado and have trusted doctors in areas of Colorado that are several hundreds of miles away -having this format to virtually consult with patients is NECESSARY!!!</p>
<p>Jennifer Hagman MD Against Colorado Psychiatric Society, Colorado Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Society</p>	<p>I am a psychiatrist, board certified in general psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry and have been in practice for 30 years. I have been involved in legislative issues and the evolution of the marijuana industry in Colorado since the beginning.</p> <p>I continue to have concerns about the legitimacy of Medical Marijuana (MMJ) in Colorado, and the legitimacy of involvement of physicians in “certifying” qualifying medical conditions.</p> <p>This is already misused by the overwhelming majority of individuals on the MMJ registry, who are young men with “pain”. The requirement of a physical exam and a “Bona fide physician patient relationship” is already minimally adhered to.</p> <p>To further dilute this to allow a “video or phone” Physical Exam (which is nearly impossible) will only further erode any semblance of legitimate or meaningful physician involvement in “certification”.</p> <p>Ideally, if physicians are to continue to be involved in certification of qualifying conditions for MMJ cards, an initial physical exam, in person, should continue to be required. Phone or video follow up appointments would be appropriate for monitoring the patient’s response for their certifying condition, but not for the initial evaluation.</p> <p>Physician offices have been open throughout the pandemic for all services, including initial new patient evaluations, routine follow up visits, medical tests, surgeries, and all services provided through physician offices and in hospital settings.</p> <p>I urge you to consider amending HB 1058 to continue to require an in-person physical exam for individuals requesting / pursuing certification for MMJ use from a physician. I think it is reasonable to allow a video or phone consultation for follow up care related to MMJ.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jennifer Hagman, MD 303-886-1395</p>
<p>Margaret Gedde For Self</p>	<p>A PDF document was submitted separately through Box. I am returning here to complete the sign up.</p> <p>Here is the text of the submitted letter.</p>

May 13, 2021

To: Members of the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee
Re: HB21-1058, Promoting Social Distancing in the Marijuana Industry

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am a Colorado medical physician with over 10 years of experience in providing medical marijuana registry-related services and medical cannabis-related counseling and dose guidance through over 30,000 patient encounters in my private practice since 2009.

Many of the patients who most benefit from use of medical cannabis, and from access to a physician-patient relationship focused on their getting the fullest possible benefits from use of medical cannabis, are the ones most negatively impacted by the need to travel to and attend an in person medical appointment.

These patients include the severely disabled of all ages. The requirement to travel to medical appointments impacts caregivers of these patients as well. Appropriately used medical cannabis can be life-changing, and at times life-saving, for these patients, in my experience.

Difficulty of attending in person medical exams has at times kept patients in my practice from accessing medical marijuana-related services in a timely manner, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Delay in attending an in person medical appointment has led to loss of access to appropriate, regulated cannabis products and interruption of our physician-patient relationship. Access to telemedicine appointments would have prevented this and resulted in better outcomes.

Not all patients need or want to meet with their medical cannabis physician by remote means. However, those who do benefit from this option can be strongly impacted and strongly prefer it. Some of this most impacted will be children with epilepsy and autism, and patients of any age with progressively debilitating illnesses such as neurodegenerative diseases and advanced cancer. Being able to meet with me by remote means in the past year has been a great benefit to them, these patients tell me.

Please do support HB21-1058, Promoting Social Distancing in the Marijuana Industry.

With best regards,

Margaret Gedde, MD, PhD

<p>Kay Stephens For Self</p>	<p>Please keep the allowance for telemedicine appointments for medical cannabis approval. It has been wonderful being able to speak with my doctor over the phone. And curbside pick-up from my dispensary has been very convenient.</p>
<p>Jason Warf For Southern Colorado Cannabis Council</p>	<p>Good afternoon.</p> <p>The Southern Colorado Cannabis Council is in strong support of HB 21-1058, unamended.</p> <p>While this legislation addresses concerns around COVID, this are things that our industry have been asking for for a number of years.</p> <p>I would like to focus on the telehealth portion. For caregivers of children and adult patients, this would make things so much easier. A lot of these patients are homebound, which makes attending appointments in person very challenging, if not impossible. This segment of the population has been asking for this for years.</p> <p>We would again strongly encourage an aye vote on UB 1058 and we thank the sponsors for their work on this important legislation.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Jason Warf</p>
<p>Jason Hilterbran For Self</p>	<p>Good day to you all. I thank the Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Colorado House Business Committee.</p> <p>I will be brief as I value your time and am honored to have you representing our great state of Colorado.</p> <p>I am submitting my written testimony to you today in support of HB21-1058.</p> <p>I am a lifelong Republican, a former firefighter and a licensed medical professional in Colorado (CNA) who works with elderly, veterans and disabled children.</p> <p>In addition, I am a father to a disabled child.</p> <p>Quite simply, this bill, HB21-1058, is something I can stand behind and support for several core reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First and most importantly, having telehealth as an option is safer for our disabled son and we believe, provides him with a better quality of life. 2. Having telehealth as an option is more affordable and more convenient for our family. 3. There's no "pork" in this bill. It is straight-forward and actually accomplishes something I think people on both sides of the aisle can agree on (rare).

	<p>4. It makes sense. It's logical to have options for patients to utilize telehealth services, especially during Cold / Flu seasons or instances such as COVID.</p> <p>I appreciate your time and ask for your YES vote on HB21-1058.</p> <p>Jason Hilterbran, CNA * I do not in any fashion, consume recreational or medicinal cannabis.</p>
<p>Robin Ray Against Self</p>	<p>My son is 11 years old. He is on life support, oxygen, feeding tubes, etc. For him to take his medication of cannabis for seizures, he needs a medical card. This card is really hard to get based on his medical needs as he needs to be caref who is around his as he has no immune system. Expanding telehealth options is a great option for people similar to my son. We are able to get access immediately for his needs. Hes safe in his own house. No canceling and rescheduling due to seizures, belly pain, etc. We live in Pueblo, so it can take us 2 hours at time to drive to Denver to see a doctor for 15 mins before driving 2 hours home. Keeping telehealth services is ideal for us. He allows him to see doctors without causing interference with feeding, oxygen, meds, diaoer changes, etc. It takes a lot of equipment to travel and telehealth appointments keep him safe the best. Please consider keeping telehealth options available for patients. Not all have access to doctors as needed.</p>
<p>Dawn Blackman For Self</p>	<p>Dear Committee,</p> <p>Please allow the permanent allowance for telemedicine for Medical Marijuana. As a 50+ patient with a chronic disease and no personal transportation, this was a Godsend for continuing my licensing, pandemic, or not. Its an average 2 hour bus ride each way to get to my doctor's office. Then there's the lobby wait, with or without an appointment. What normally takes me a minimum of 5 hours was able to be done in about an hour from my home. Otherwise, one appoinment eats up a whole day, which can be quite an ordeal for people who are often feeling ill already, if they aren't homebound, or severely incapacitated as it is. Personally, I can be fine one day, and unable to leave home for several days or more the next, which and interfere with the ability to keep away from home appointments, thus jeopardizing the ability to obtain medical cannabis at all.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Dawn Blackman Aurora</p>
<p>Mimi Friedman For American Medical Refugees</p>	<p>This bill is critically important to continue providing access to the state medical cannabis program for all qualifying patients. Access is very difficult for a significant number of patients due to location, disability, or financial status (I.E not owning a car or being able to afford a driving service). Please vote yes and help those patients get the access they qualify for.</p>

House Business Affairs & Labor

03/03/2021 1:30 PM

Testimony - HB21-1058 Promoting Social Distancing In Marijuana Indus

First Name	Last Name	Position	Representing	Text of Testimony
Kimberley	Jackson	For	Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition	<p>My name is Dr. Kimberley Jackson. I previously practiced Family Medicine in Pueblo, CO, but am currently unable to due to my health problems and my disabilities. I now volunteer as a board member and non-attorney advocate with the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition. I am mostly homebound, but able to live independently in the community with assistance from my personal care attendants.</p> <p>People with disabilities have been particularly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, as many of our disabling and medical conditions also put us at higher risk of severe COVID-19. The expansion of telemedicine during the coronavirus pandemic has allowed Coloradans to receive medical care in a safe manner via telemedicine. For example, allowing people living with chronic pain who use opioids to manage their condition to have telemedicine appointments has helped to improve access for those who had trouble meeting this requirement via in-person visits.</p> <p>Many people with debilitating or disabling medical conditions, such as myself, have found marijuana helpful in managing symptoms. Yet, the requirement for in-person provider visits creates huge barriers to being certified for medical marijuana. Allowing these encounters through telemedicine or by telephone would help to address this. It also brings medical marijuana into parity with other regulations regarding telemedicine that have been enacted both before and during the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Individuals certified to use medical marijuana and who are unable to access a retail store in person, are able to designate someone to purchase medical marijuana on their behalf. For Those that don't qualify for medical marijuana certification, it may be impossible to legally acquire marijuana unless they are able to get to a retail store in-person, as they are currently unable to designate someone to purchase marijuana on their behalf or remotely via the internet. Allowing online sales and/or the purchase of recreational marijuana on behalf of someone else helps ensure all eligible Coloradans have access to marijuana, a right that was asserted by legalizing the recreational sale of marijuana.</p> <p>By increasing access to both medical and recreational marijuana, this bill will help with some of the access issues faced people with disabilities who use marijuana. As a result, I and the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition support the passage of this legislation.</p>

Witness Signup List

Maureen	Savage	For	Self	<p>As a registered dietitian with a certification in cannabis studies, I see a great need to maintain the equitable health care access to cannabis care by keeping tele-health for both assessments and continued follow up care. Medical patients can greatly benefit from continued online ordering and curbside pick up because it reduces the un-necessary physical steps to obtain their needed medication. The rural communities are YET again at a great disadvantage to this available tool of medical cannabis care because they would have to drive much further to obtain a medical card or continue with further needed follow up which only reduces the ability of compliance to the medical prescription. I appreciate your consideration to maintain these care access tools after the pandemic has resolved. Maureen Dube-Savage MS R.D. Certified Cannabis Practitioner</p>
Hope	Nazzaro	For	Self	<p>I would like to keep Medical Marijuana Telemedicine Appointments legal beyond the temporary Covid-19 allowances, and would want patients to continue using dispensary online ordering systems and curbside pickup.</p>
DD	Lerner	For	Self	<p>I have been a medical patient for four years. I am disabled by . CRPS - Chronic Pain - and DDD, Degenerative Disk Disease. I suffer physically, mentally and emotionally and my compromised immune system makes me somewhat more delicate than most. I have been safer at home for five years now. Even when our communities were not challenged by COVID-19, I practiced social distancing. I take no conventional medicine, not even aspirin. I manage my pain, PTSD and anxiety with meditation, physical therapy, an organic, vegan allergen-free diet and medical marijuana. My body always hurts. My energy is very limited. Driving hurts and is exhausting. I stress easily. My body has limited defenses in the best of times and this is the best I've been in five years. I live in a rural area - about 35 miles from the closest necessary services. My safety, wellness and overall health is assisted by safe access; Telemedicine, social distancing and respectful safety and caution during the pandemic and after. I am on disability and literally use my payment card for everything. I fully support dispensaries providing access to secure, non-cash transactions. Last, but not least, as a 62 year old, disabled female, the absolute best thing for me is to stay safe and well, healthy and productive for as long as possible. These changes will support my own and countless others' current and future health, wellness and safety while allowing the industry to adapt and thrive and to continue to serve the community it was created to serve with quality products, healthful supportive services, honor and respect. Thank you. DDLerner</p>

Witness Signup List

Lisa Rittel For Self

As a physician, I am strongly in support of HB 21-1058 to allow doctors who see Medical Marijuana patients to continue to evaluate and counsel patients remotely via video and telephone visits. The large majority of my Medical Marijuana patients are adults. Older women and men in their 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's who are at risk traveling in winter snow and ice. Parents of children with severe disabilities, seizures or autism who would otherwise spend hours transporting them from all over Colorado. The few 18 to 21-year-olds that I see must demonstrate an ability to assume the responsibility of having access to Medical Marijuana and they must have the appropriate medical records or letter from their physician to prove that they qualify. A true doctor-patient relationship exists with all doctors that practice true medicine, and we should keep our patients as safe as we can. Please vote yes on this bill.

Laura Koenig For Self

I have worked for a medical practice that specializes in Cannabis Medicine for the last four years. Our practice has successfully moved to practicing telemedicine since the onset of the Covid 19 virus. We continue to promote and nurture responsible physician-patient relationship with our clients. Many of our patients suffer from debilitating conditions and are immunocompromised. Many of our patients have a hard time traveling due to their condition and/or live in rural or remote locations. Many of our clients are making an appointment for their yearly renewal as the CDPHE requires. Telemedicine will protect our patients, our doctors and our staff as well as help to stop the spread of the virus. Telemedicine makes accessing medical cannabis easier for our patients to treat often serious debilitating and disabling medical conditions and symptoms. Our clients have expressed their appreciation for the steps we have taken to keep them safe and the ease of accessibility that telemedicine provides them. I hope you will consider voting in favor of passing Bill HB21-1058. Thank you for your time and consideration.



It is a strategic priority of Colorado Christian University to impact our culture in support of traditional family values, sanctity of life, compassion for the poor, Biblical View of human nature, limited government, personal freedom, free markets, natural law, original intent of the Constitution, Western civilization. The Centennial Institute at Colorado Christian University engages public policy in an effort to advance these principles.

The Centennial Institute is opposed to HB 1058 and respectfully requests a “NO” vote.

This bill allows marijuana to be ordered online and removes the requirement that a person is physically present in a marijuana retail store to purchase marijuana.

What are the safeguards that marijuana and high potency pot drugs do not fall into the hands of children when these drugs are mailed?

This bill sacrifices the safety of Coloradans to put more drugs in people's hands and line the pockets of the marijuana industry. We urge a NO vote on HB1058

Jeff Hunt
Vice-President of Public Policy
Colorado Christian University

Director
Centennial Institute



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Colorado Christian University

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SUPPORT HB21-1058

Sharon Montes MD to: committees.lcs.ga 05/12/2021 10:47 PM

Dear Legislator friend

I write to SUPPORT

HB21-1058

Social Distancing in the Marijuana Industry /Rep. Gray, Sen. Gonzales

As a Loveland-based physician who has provided medical certification exams since 2018 I have seen how the Telemedicine allowance has improved access and convenience for my patients.

Specifically being able to provided telemedicine care has resulted in better care for the following residents:

- a. elderly patients - Telemedicine facilitates family participation in the appointment (children don't have to take hours off work to accompany their parents
- b. people with disabilities/illness - easier to receive care from comfort of their home
- c. people living in rural areas or areas distant from a medical provider
- d. people having limited transportation
- e. people working 9 to 5 jobs. - Telemedicine gives them better appointment time options.

Initially reluctant to use Zoom for my appointments, I have learned that done well, telemedicine actually improves the care I provide.

Please vote in favor of HB21-1058 to continue to allow better access to care.

My patients elderly/disabled/ rural residents can receive care while staying at home. My working patients are able to see a provider anywhere in the state at day and a time that works best for their schedule.

Thank-you for your consideration

Dr Sharon Montes

--

Sharon Louise Montes MD

<https://LivingWellWholeHealth.com/>

<https://www.livingwellhealthgroup.com/>

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“When health is absent, wisdom cannot reveal itself, art cannot manifest, strength cannot fight, wealth becomes useless, and intelligence cannot be applied.” – Herophilus

Margaret Gedde, MD, PhD
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Phone & Fax 877-237-8571 ~ Email mgedde@geddewholehealth.com

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Please do support HB21-1058, Promoting Social Distancing in the Marijuana Industry.

With best regards,



Margaret Gedde, MD, Ph