

Senate Health & Human Services

HB21-1272 Supporting The Child Protection Ombudsman

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Shane Mitchell Against Self	<p>If you are taking the place of someone, you should be held accountable for any and everything just as the person you are filling in for will be (no matter the severity). If there is a situation where the pro tempore child protection ombudsman does not feel comfortable taking on that responsibility, they need to be replaced. We do not put accountability on the back burner to exempt anyone to convenience ourselves. What this bill is doing is sweeping under the rug any mistakes the pro tempore may have made. No it cant happen. If there is any chance that the pro tempore does not feel comfortable in taking on the responsibility do not allow them to partake. What this bill is saying is basically if the pro tempore f***s up as long as its not civil or criminal it is not important to put on record. No every communication record should be take into account and documented. Who determines what is civil or criminal? What if something civil or criminal did happen but since the pro tempore did not record it or neglected their duty due to them understanding they will not have to be held to oath that lives a bad precedent. This is a bad idea. All communications verbal or written and all records need to be made readily available and the pro tempore needs to be made to testify no matter the severity. Hold everyone accountable!</p>



Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to you today to express The Kempe Foundation's support for HB21-1272: Enhancing Supports to the Office of the Child Protection Ombudsman in its Role Concerning Child Protections. We applaud the sponsors, Representative Cutter and Representative Bradfield, for putting forward this measure to ensure the Ombudsman has the relevant information to carry out the statutory responsibilities of the Office.

The Ombudsman plays a very important role in protecting the safety and well-being of Colorado's children. The Ombudsman acts as an independent set of eyes to ensure that our systems intended to protect children and support families are serving the best interests of those children and families. In order to carry out those responsibilities the Ombudsman must have access to all relevant information.

The provision of HB21-1272 that stands out as particularly important to the Ombudsman responsibilities is information related to child fatalities resulting from child maltreatment. We can all agree the death of a child from maltreatment is irreprehensible and totally unacceptable. If an independent review by the Ombudsman would shed light on system changes or improvements that might prevent another child death, you will have made a major step through HB21-1272 in protecting Colorado's children.

We understand HB21-1272 aligns the Colorado Ombudsman's access to information and records with "best practices" as published by the U.S. Ombudsman Association. We understand that amendments to HB21-1272 have been agreed upon by other agencies and stakeholders will be offered by the Sponsors to clarify certain provisions of the bill. We support the amendments offered by the Sponsors. We urge a yes vote of HB21-1272.

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