

Senate Health & Human Services

SB21-278 Reimbursement For Out-of-home Placement Services

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Alli Daley</p> <p>For</p> <p>Children's Hospital Colorado</p>	<p>Thank you Madam Chair and committee members.</p> <p>My name is Alli Daley and I'm the Senior Behavioral Health Policy Coordinator at Children's Hospital Colorado submitting testimony in support of SB21-278, Reimbursement for Out-of-Home Placement Services.</p> <p>We all know the country is facing a huge behavioral health crisis which has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health crisis. Nationwide, we've seen an increase in emergency department visits for mental health crises of 24% for children aged 5 to 11 and 31% for ages 12 to 17. At Children's Hospital Colorado, we have seen an increase in the acuity of suicide attempts, and suicidal ideation was the chief complaint in our emergency department in 2020 (at 52%) which is highly unusual.</p> <p>We're also facing high volumes of kids who no longer meet criteria to be hospitalized but our system of care lacks placement availability to help these children and youth transition to lower levels of care in a safe way. In 2020, 18% of all inpatient days at Children's Hospital Colorado were kids who no longer met criteria to be hospitalized. This means that we have waiting lists for children who would benefit from inpatient treatment and we have children who are ready to be discharged who can't be and whose right to treatment in the lowest level of care is being violated.</p> <p>While this bill can't fix all of these problems, it's an important step towards ensuring that our state has the necessary capacity for out-of-home placements so that all children and youth can be served in appropriate settings.</p> <p>In particular, the bill requires the Department of Human Services, in cooperation with counties and the Department of Health Care Policy &amp; Financing, to determine the number of placements necessary for each level of care and develop a plan to build placement capacity statewide. The bill</p>

	<p>also supports out-of-home placement providers by requiring an actuarial analysis for provider rates and encouraging the Department of Human Services to submit annual budget requests to fund the rates required by the actuarial analysis.</p> <p>We are also very supportive of the provision that requires the Department of Human Services to assist residential placement providers in their transition to becoming Title IV-E eligible placement providers and ensuring that Medicaid-eligible children and youth can continue to be served in these residential settings.</p> <p>Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this bill, and please vote “yes” on SB21-278.</p>
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