

House Health & Human Services

02/26/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1174 Reimbursement Requirements for Health Insurers

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Anne Hazelton For themselves	<p>Dear Members of the Colorado House Health & Human Services Committee,</p> <p>As a Preventive Medicine physician and Coloradan for nearly five decades, I urge you to support HB25-1174, the "Support Colorado's Health-Care Safety Net Act of 2025," when it comes up for a vote in the Health & Human Services Committee. I'd also like to thank Chair Rep. Kyle Brown for his sponsorship of this critical legislation.</p> <p>Although I am now retired, I have seen patients who have had to make hard decisions about allocating their resources among healthcare and other basic needs. I can't even imagine the heartbreak of a parent deciding on what they can spend on their ill child and still be able to pay for food and rent.</p> <p>We need all the help we can get in making healthcare more equitable.</p> <p>That's why I wholeheartedly support HB25-1174, which will limit the amount large hospital systems can charge state employees and small businesses for hospital visits, thus saving the state millions of dollars every year, and then reinvest these savings in small and independent rural providers, primary care and family clinics, and other safety net providers.</p> <p>Right now, the average Coloradan pays nearly three times what Medicare pays for the exact same health care at our hospitals. Working people are being charged more for the same medical tests or procedures just because of where they get it or what type of insurance they have.</p>

	<p>Meanwhile, safety net providers such as small and independent rural providers, and primary care and family clinics, aren't getting the support they need, even though these providers connect vulnerable communities like seniors, working families, and rural Coloradans to the health care they need.</p> <p>HB25-1174 will help address both these problems by limiting what large hospital systems can charge for hospital visits for state employees and small businesses, and by reinvesting these savings into our health care safety net. By passing this legislation, you have an opportunity to help reduce hospital service costs while ensuring our most vulnerable patients can continue accessing needed care.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Anne Hazelton, MD, MSPH</p>
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To: Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Cameron DeTello | Young Invincibles | Rocky Mountain Engagement Manager
Re: HB25-1174 - Support Colorado's Health Care Safety Net & Save Coloradans Money

Dear Madam Chair and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony today. My name is Cameron DeTello, and I serve as the Rocky Mountain Engagement Manager for Young Invincibles. Our mission is to amplify the voices of young adults in the political process and expand access to healthcare, higher education, and economic opportunity.

We strongly support **HB25-1174** because every Coloradan deserves access to high-quality, affordable health care. Yet, far too many people in our state—especially young adults—are struggling with the rising costs of critical hospital services, whether for routine care or lifesaving treatment.

At Young Invincibles, we hear firsthand from young people who are frustrated by a system where the same treatment can cost dramatically different amounts depending on the facility or insurance plan. Too often, it feels like hospitals are prioritizing profits over patient care. This bill takes a critical step toward making health care more transparent and affordable by:

- **Establishing reimbursement maximums** to prevent excessive charges
- **Requiring a feasibility study** to explore how more Coloradans could benefit from this policy across the state

For young people—particularly those working for small businesses and state employees, such as teachers and nurses—this bill could mean real savings on out-of-pocket costs for hospital services.

We also recognize the state's financial constraints and the need to find cost-saving solutions without harming vulnerable communities. **HB25-1174 does exactly that.** It will help lower healthcare costs, protect access to critical community providers, and save the state millions of dollars by ensuring large hospital systems cannot overcharge small businesses and state employees. These savings will be reinvested in small and independent rural providers, primary care and family clinics, and other safety-net providers that Coloradans rely on.

Meanwhile, Colorado's largest hospital systems report **hundreds of millions of dollars in profits yearly**, even as young people, working families, and small businesses struggle with skyrocketing healthcare costs. That's unacceptable. Young people are paying attention, and we will continue advocating for policies that ensure health care is affordable, accessible, and centered on people—not corporate profits.

HB25-1174 is a common-sense step toward a fairer and more affordable healthcare system. I urge the committee to advance this bill, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Cameron DeTello, Young Invincibles, Rocky Mountain Engagement Manager



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February 17, 2025

House Health & Human Services Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80203

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB25-1174 – Reimbursement Requirements for Health Insurers

Dear Chair Brown, Vice Chair Lieder, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care to express support for HB25-1174, which seeks to establish fair and transparent reimbursement requirements for health insurers in Colorado. CO4UHC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that educates the public about health care reform and supports efforts to improve our health care system. This bill is an important step toward ensuring that health care providers receive timely and adequate payment for their services, ultimately improving access to quality care for all Coloradans.

In recent years, many health care providers have faced significant financial and administrative burdens due to delayed or insufficient reimbursements from profiteering insurance companies. These challenges not only threaten the financial stability of medical practices—especially independent providers and rural health care facilities—but also hinder patient access to necessary treatments.

By passing HB25-1174, Colorado can create a more equitable and efficient health care system by ensuring timely payment by insurers and therefore help sustain medical practices and prevent disruptions in patient care. This bill also standardizes reimbursement policies that will reduce administrative burdens and allow providers to focus on delivering quality care rather than navigating complex billing issues. Finally, by ensuring fair compensation, this bill will help retain and attract health care professionals, particularly in underserved and rural areas.

For these reasons, we urge you to support this legislation and vote for its passage. Ensuring fair reimbursement policies is essential for maintaining a strong, sustainable health care system that prioritizes patient care over profit-driven administrative hurdles.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your leadership in advancing policies that benefit both health care providers and the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Potter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

James R. Potter
Board Member