

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HOUSE BILL 1154.

Concerning the ability of a person eligible for prescription drug benefits to choose the pharmacy at which to fill a prescription drug order.

My name is Heidi Haines and I am testifying on behalf of the Arc of Colorado, The Arc of Colorado promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation throughout their lifetimes.

There are 3 primary reasons for our support HB 1154 –Patient Choice of Pharmacy.

- Mail order delivery of meds (required by some private policies—and yes, people with IDD can have private insurance as well as Medicaid) could be very confusing to persons with IDD who are used to talking to a pharmacist and have the opportunity to talk with a pharmacist about use of the meds, storage and side effects. Some people with IDD have limited reading and cognitive skills.
- Families with private coverage may also have a family member covered by Medicaid (e.g. a child on the CES waiver or an adult on the SLS waiver living at home)—requiring families to use two different pharmacies is burdensome and confusing to families who are already overwhelmed.
- Many of the policies require maintenance meds to be delivered by mail—MANY people with IDD are on maintenance medications and the unreliability of mail order delivery could be dangerous especially for meds that require special storage.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today in support of House bill 1154,

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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