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The Honorable Jonathan Singer  
Chair, Public Health Care & Human Services  
Colorado House of Representatives

Dear Representative Singer,

I am writing to urge you to consider and support the amended version of HB1177.

I am the aunt of a beautiful, now 18 year old, girl for whom puberty has been a huge challenge. Around the age of 10 she became obsessed with the dark side of our culture, the sexual side of her nature and exhibited wild mood swings. My sister sought treatment and did her best to comply with all suggestions made by her daughter's treatment providers. Then my niece turned 15. All communication between the professionals and my sister ceased abruptly. As the current law works, when a child reaches age 15 parents are not even informed of the next appointment without the consent of the child. In our experience, with a child that wanted to grow up too fast with high risk behavior and more, we could have used the continued professional counsel of her mental health treatment providers, but that was not possible without my niece's consent. My sister did get to talk to the doctors on the medical side who had to put my niece back together time after time and the police who picked her up time after time. My sister's phone is full of pleas from my niece for her mother to help her... yet when taken to a place to help her, my niece would rarely sign a consent for services and never for informational release. I am genuinely relieved that the section of the bill to lower the age of consent to 12 is dropped in this amended version.