



TO: Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee
FROM: Alexis Alltop, Policy Manager, Healthier Colorado
RE: Testimony in Support of SB-289: Creation of a Drug Donation Program
DATE: Wednesday, April 30th, 2025

To the Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee:

Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, for considering my written testimony on behalf of Healthier Colorado in support of [SB25-289: Creation of a Drug Donation Program](#).

Each year in the U.S., [billions of dollars worth](#) of perfectly safe, unused prescription medications are discarded. Yet for many Coloradans, the rising costs of prescription drugs pose a barrier to the timely treatment of their conditions.

The drug donation program created by this bill will limit the waste of unexpired medications and improve access to vital and sometimes life-saving prescriptions, especially for individuals who are uninsured, indigent, or enrolled in public health benefit programs. Eligible individuals who benefit from this program will be charged no more than a modest dispensing or handling fee, if they are charged anything at all.

SB-289 also includes strong safety measures to protect patients. Only medications in unopened, tamper-evident packaging can be accepted. Donation recipients must also inspect every prescription and adhere to thorough records and storage standards. These guardrails ensure that every dose dispensed through the program will be safe and effective.

Allowing drug donations will also reduce improper medication disposal by flushing or throwing medications away. This will mean fewer disruptions to our ecosystems from chemicals leaching into our soil and waterways, which is [a growing concern](#) in Colorado and beyond.

The redistribution of donated drugs to eligible patients could mean the difference between swift and accessible treatments and conditions escalating to a point that requires more costly interventions or emergency care later on.

SB-289 is a common-sense solution to improve public health and protect our environment in the short and long-term, and I respectfully request your “yes” vote on this important bill. Thank you for your time and consideration of written testimony for this important bill, and I respectfully request your “yes” vote on SB25-289: Creation of a Drug Donation Program

Sincerely,
Alexis Alltop
Policy Manager, Healthier Colorado



University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus

Skaggs School of
Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Science

Gina D. Moore, PharmD, MBA

Mail Stop C238
12850 E. Montview Blvd.,
Room V20-1127C
Aurora, CO 80045

o 303 724 2508

f 303 724 2627

www.ucdenver.edu/pharmacy

April 30, 2025

Dear Chairman Brown and Members of the House Health Committee:

I am writing as a private citizen in strong support of SB25-289, the Creation of a Drug Donation Program. In my faculty role, I had the privilege of chairing the Task Force established by SB22-098 in 2022. Through that process, we convened and collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders—including national experts on drug donation programs—to understand best practices and assess the feasibility of implementing such a program in Colorado.

As a pharmacist, I have witnessed firsthand how difficult it can be for patients to afford their medications. Many of these individuals either lack health insurance, have inadequate coverage, or are enrolled in high-deductible health plans that still leave them with substantial out-of-pocket costs. According to the Colorado Health Institute, 9.7% of Coloradans were unable to fill a prescription in 2021 due to cost—a stark reminder of the financial barriers many face in accessing essential medications.

At the same time, we see an alarming amount of waste. Hundreds of medications go unused and are ultimately destroyed—often in settings such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and correctional institutions. These are medications that could safely benefit others in need if a proper infrastructure were in place.

The task force recommended the creation of a statewide drug donation and re-dispensing infrastructure to help address this dual challenge of medication waste and access. While we recognize that a fully funded program is not financially feasible at this time, SB25-289 is a critical first step. This legislation establishes a safe and structured mechanism for the donation of unused medications, allowing them to be re-dispensed to individuals who need them most.

Importantly, the bill includes strong safeguards. Only medications in original, unopened packaging—or packaging that clearly shows any signs of tampering—will be eligible for donation. Controlled substances are explicitly excluded from the program, ensuring public safety while expanding access.

This is a thoughtful, responsible approach to a real and pressing issue, and I urge your support of SB25-289.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina D. Moore", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Gina D. Moore, PharmD, MBA

Associate Professor

Senior Associate Dean for Operations and Regulatory Affairs



COLORADO
PHARMACISTS
SOCIETY

Colorado Pharmacists Society

303 E. 17th Ave Suite 400
Denver, CO 80203
720-250-9585
admin@copharm.org

April 30, 2025

Dear Chairman Brown and Members of House Health Committee,

The Colorado Pharmacists Society is in support of SB25-289. CPS has been involved with the efforts around this issue and effort in different ways for the past 4 years, including providing much input and stake-holding on the 2024 bill SB24-061, the original bill SB 22-98, and also participating officially and fully in the taskforce that was created by SB22-098.

As pharmacists on the front lines, we directly see patients struggling to afford their medications, or simply NOT taking them due to cost. So, there is nothing worse than having to then dispose of unused medications.

Although we believe that the ideal legislation would guarantee sustainability and funding to make a program successful, we appreciate the effort to at least legally create the infrastructure for drug donation and redispensing to exist in CO, with guardrails on safety and liability.

Ideally, in the future -with funding- we could ensure a program in CO that can sustainably make a difference (ie scaled and broad enough to be impactful and long-lasting) with the key being a program that is centralized and funded. Considering multistate partnerships may also be a viable option.

Thank you for taking the first step with SB25-289. We ask you to vote yes.

Regards,

Emily Zadvorny, PharmD, BCPS

Executive Director, Colorado Pharmacists Society
Emily.Zadvorny@copharm.org (303) 818-9045

Executive Director

Emily Zadvorny, PharmD, BCPS

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Pharmacy

Cindy O-Bryant, PharmD, BCOP, FCCP,
FHOPA

Ex-officio, CU School of Pharmacy