



COLORADO ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR COLORADO

February 14, 2024

Members of the House Health & Human Services:

My name is Upasana Mohapatra and I am a family physician practicing in Thornton. I am testifying on behalf of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians, which represents over 2,500 family physicians, residents and students across our state to amend HB24-1153 Physician Continuing Education because mandatory education requirements can add to burnout and ultimately counteract goals of the bill, decreasing access to reproductive health care.

I love both continuing education and reproductive health, so I appreciate the intention, but even I worry about this requirement. However, 12 hours every cycle is likely to be a barrier that would work against access to reproductive health care, especially in an underserved setting.

In my practice, we already lost CME funding and time last year due to budget constraints. We have also lost at least 5 providers in the last month. This impacts patient access and care for those who need it most. Adams county is already low on primary care, and losing more as we go. Safety net clinics across Colorado are closing their doors to new patients outside their service area. Primary care is essential in the front lines of reproductive health care, and community health clinics even more so for reproductive justice.

And truly, when it comes to reproductive health, the most difficult barriers are NOT education. More often they are legislative barriers, access to care, insurance, language, and so much more.

I plan to continue in underserved settings, but I know many of my colleagues are considering leaving. This is one more barrier of time/money that might be that final push. Currently I have many colleagues that are champions of reproductive health, so losing us could actually be counterproductive, by losing advocates for reproductive health care on the front lines.

Thank you for your time and work to improve reproductive healthcare in our state. Please consider the CAFP recommendation to amend this bill

Sincerely,

Upasana Mohapatra, MD
She/her/hers
Denver, CO