

Senate Finance

02/03/2026 02:00 PM

SB26-039 FPPA Disability & Survivor Benefits

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Kerrilyn Chavez For themselves	<p>Dear Senator,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to any proposed cuts to disability services in Colorado. I am a proud mother of a seven year old daughter with Down Syndrome. Valentina is Autistic, Non-Verbal and functions cognitively at about 18-24 months. Cuts to these programs and services will directly effect her ability to live a well rounded and fulfilling life; as well as additional individuals in this state who have intellectual and physical disabilities.</p> <p>These services are not optional programs; they are essential lifelines that allow people with disabilities to live with dignity, safety, and as much independence as possible. Reducing funding or eligibility for these supports will not save the state money in the long run — it will simply shift costs onto families, local communities, hospitals, emergency systems, and ultimately more expensive institutional care.</p> <p>Many Coloradans with disabilities rely on Home- and Community-Based Services to remain in their homes, participate in their communities, and avoid unnecessary institutionalization. Cutting these supports risks undoing years of progress toward inclusive, community-based care that is both more humane and more cost-effective.</p> <p>I am particularly concerned about proposals that would reduce compensation or benefits for parent providers and family caregivers. These individuals provide round-the-clock care that the state could</p>

	<p>not replicate at a comparable cost. Undermining their ability to provide that care would place tremendous strain on families and could force vulnerable individuals into far more costly and disruptive placements.</p> <p>I urge you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Protect current funding levels for disability services.- Reject policies that reduce access to Medicaid-based supports for people with disabilities.- Preserve and strengthen compensation and benefits for parent and family caregivers.- Prioritize community-based care over institutional alternatives. <p>Colorado has a responsibility to support its most vulnerable residents. I ask that you stand firmly against cuts to disability services and advocate for policies that ensure stability, equity, and care for people with disabilities and their families.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kerrilyn Chavez</p>
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