

House Health & Human Services

03/24/2026 Upon Adjournment

HB26-1327 Large Employer Worker Health-Care Support

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Jinny Arrington</p> <p>For</p> <p>themselves</p>	<p>Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Jinny Arrington, and I am the parent of a medically complex child who depends on Medicaid-funded care to live safely at home.</p> <p>I support HB26-1327 because strengthening Medicaid funding directly impacts families like mine. Ever since funding became unstable, we experienced staffing shortages in therapies, worried for reduction in care hours, more battles of coverage for essential items, and disruptions that can put our child at risk which leads to hospitalizations.</p> <p>Consistent, in-home care keeps my child safe and prevents far more costly care. Investing in Medicaid is both compassionate and cost-effective.</p> <p>Please support HB26-1327.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jinny Arrington</p>

	Mesa County, CO
<p>Brittney Guzman For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Brittney Guzman a single mom in Westminster. I solely care for my disabled 5 year old with a genetic disorder, severe ADHD, level 3 ASD, absent seizures and the list goes on. My child relies on Medicaid long term supports and his waiver to remain at home. His therapies are frequent and demanding. Medicaid and myself are his only life line to try to help him get better remain safe and not on the streets or in a facility. Many disabled children and adults without this funding will end up in institutions in hospitals this is not a hypothetical scenario this is real lives real impacts. I wish more people were listening because when families are backed into a corner and we can no longer care for them they need to go somewhere. This will cost the state three times as much money, providing them care outside of the home. Families like mine cannot just suck it up and have their medically necessary care denied it will end badly. The cuts against disabled adults children's services that are coming through barely save the state money. So with this is mind Why are billion dollar corporations like Walmart able to pay low wages and just on board employees onto Medicaid? The is not acceptable. It is our job as a society to protect the most vulnerable not pay the way of major corporations so that they can save a buck. Now is the time for legislators to prove their character, morals, and values. Where do you stand? The state is for "taxing the rich more and taxing the poor less" why is this scenario any different? Say yes and make these companies. Provide their employees with health insurance, and not allow these major corporations to suck up essential services meant for elderly disabled and low income people.</p>
<p>Cathleen Vance For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Cathleen Vance, I am a parent caregiver to my 2 children who have disabilities. We are residence of Arapahoe county. We are constantly facing cuts or threats of cuts to our pay, our programs and necessities for our children. Its past time to bring in more funds. It's there and you all know it. Stop hurting the most venerable and start holding the corporations that make billions of dollars off our backs accountable. No more cuts!!</p>

<p>Rachelle Narrow</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Rachelle, I am a disabled single parent strongly in favor of this bill. I'm raising multiple children with disabilities, and like so many families in our state, Medicaid is not a luxury for us—it is the foundation that keeps our lives stable, safe, and functioning.</p> <p>The recent and ongoing cuts to Medicaid are not abstract policy decisions. They are showing up in our homes as lost services, reduced hours of care, provider shortages, and impossible choices. Families like mine are being asked to stretch already thin resources beyond what is sustainable. We are expected to fill critical gaps in care with nothing—no time, no money, and no support left to give.</p> <p>Every dollar taken out of Medicaid has a real and immediate human cost. It means children go without therapies. It means parents are pushed to exhaustion trying to replace trained providers. It means vulnerable people lose access to the care that allows them to live with dignity.</p> <p>That is why I support this bill.</p> <p>Any effort to reinvest in Medicaid—especially one that asks large employers, who have the greatest capacity to contribute, to help stabilize this system—is a step in the right direction. When large employers do not provide adequate health coverage and their employees rely on Medicaid, the burden shifts to families like mine and to the state. This bill helps rebalance that responsibility.</p> <p>Medicaid is not just a safety net—it is an essential system that supports families, sustains our workforce, and prevents far more costly crises down the line. When we underfund it, we are not saving money—we are simply shifting the cost onto those least able to carry it.</p>
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	<p>I urge you to support this bill and to continue pursuing policies that strengthen and protect Medicaid. Families like mine are depending on itâ€”not just for our well-being, but for our survival.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Alicia Folsom For themselves</p>	<p>Medicaid cuts have already ripped services away from my disabled child. I'm disabled myself and my hours likely cut April 1 too. We won't be able to afford it here anymore. We had been trying to save up for an accessible home for myself and our child but these cuts have made it impossible. So few accessible rentals already and I can't do home modifications on a rental!</p> <p>Please please show support to this bill so we aren't subsidizing profits for big corporations. If the state can't afford services for the most disabled, they can't afford to subsidize companies like Walmart, McDonalds, or Amazon.</p> <p>Alicia Folsom</p>
<p>Jo Burns For themselves</p>	<p>As an individual who has worked with children with disabilities who are dependent on Medicaid for health services and support, I find it abhorrent that many of our largest employers in Colorado have 30-40% of their workforce utilizing Medicaid funding because they don't receive benefits from their employer (e.g. Walmart, Amazon, Target). I feel this bill could provide additional funding for health and medical services for Medicaid recipients. This bill identifies large employers (500+ employees) with more than enough revenue to pay their employees benefits if they would provide them adequate hours and liveable wages. The State of Colorado should not be financially responsible for subsidizing large employers for their employees to receive Medicaid benefits. Health First Colorado and CHP+ (Medicaid) benefits should be made available to those most in need, children and adults with developmental/intellectual disabilities who are unable to work, low income families, low income breast</p>

	<p>and cervical cancer patients, and many others who are qualified. With the ever increasing cost of health insurance and wages that don't keep up with those costs or inflation on everyday goods, it's imperative that Colorado's largest employers who are highly profitable pay into the Medicaid program or create sustainable, livable wages that provide health, dental and eyecare benefits for their workforce.</p>
<p>Cecilia Pham For themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a constituent in Denver. This year, we've already seen changes to Medicaid that will limit the care my medically complex son can receive at home. I'm very concerned about what happens when he doesn't have the care he needs to stay stable at home.</p> <p>My son Nathaniel needs near-constant skilled care at home: respiratory support, G-tube feeds, continuous monitoring for seizures and dystonia, etc.</p> <p>When we don't have enough support at home, his health goes downhill pretty quickly and we end up in the ED or the hospital. When we do have enough help, we can usually manage things at home and keep him stable. Just this past week, Nathaniel had two trips to the emergency department for medical crises. Because we had skilled, experienced caregivers at home, he didn't need to be admitted. They were able to send him home and we continued treatment there.</p> <p>From what we've seen, even short hospital stays get billed in the tens of thousands, and ED visits are still thousands. When in-home care isn't there, those costs don't actually go away, and they turn into bigger problems later that end up needing more expensive hospital care.</p>

	<p>Families like ours are already doing a huge amount of hospital-level care at home every day. When support falls short, that gap builds until something gives and the child ends up hospitalized.</p> <p>HB26-1327 would help strengthen Medicaid funding by shifting some of the cost onto large employers, instead of leaving adults and children with disabilities like Nathaniel to absorb the impact when care at home is reduced, leading to more expensive and avoidable hospital care.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Cecilia</p>
<p>Summer Laws For Boulder County</p>	<p>Chair Gilchrist and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,</p> <p>Boulder County is reaching out to request your support of HB26-1327 Large Employer Worker Health Care Support.</p> <p>HB26-1327 is part of the solution to ensuring access to life-saving health care for people with low incomes. A fee on large employers ensures shared responsibility, Medicaid fiscal sustainability, and incentivizes employer-sponsored coverage.</p> <p>Shared responsibility: When employers don't provide health care coverage for their employees, they push the cost burden of providing coverage onto Colorado's taxpayers. HB 1327 ensures employers pay their fair share for coverage.</p> <p>Fiscal sustainability: The Joint Budget Committee is facing very difficult decisions given the state's fiscal challenges. The state budget's revenue is reduced due to the passage of H.R. 1 and because the costs of providing government services has increased in the past year due to inflation. Given these fiscal</p>

	<p>challenges, Colorado needs creative solutions to support critical and essential services, such as health care.</p> <p>Incentivizing employer-sponsored coverage: HB 1327 allows large employers to avoid the fee by providing employer-based health care coverage.</p> <p>Given the merits of HB 1327, Boulder County respectfully requests your yes vote in committee in today.</p>
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Broomfield Taxpayer Matters



RE: HB26-1327 – House Health and Human Services Committee

Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 @ UA

Sponsors: Rep(s) Feret, Sen(s) Mullica

Thank you, Chair Gilchrist, and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Thank you for considering this written testimony. My name is Sheryl Fernandez, and I represent Broomfield Taxpayer Matters, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to educate, empower, and advocate for the taxpayers across Colorado – NOT just in Broomfield.

Broomfield Taxpayer Matters are in OPPOSITION of HB26-1327.

BTM rise in strong opposition to this bill—not just because of what it does, but how it does it.

At its core, this bill creates yet another government entity—the so-called “Large Employer Health-Care Support Enterprise”—with the power to collect new fees outside of normal taxpayer protections. Let’s be clear: this is not innovation. This is a workaround.

Coloradans are already facing rising costs across the board—housing, groceries, insurance, and utilities. Now the state is proposing to layer on a new fee on employers, knowing full well those costs won’t stay with employers. They will be passed directly to workers through lower wages, reduced benefits, or fewer job opportunities—and to consumers through higher prices.

So, while this bill may not be labeled as a tax on individuals, it absolutely functions like one.

Even more concerning is the creation of a new government enterprise to collect and spend these funds outside of TABOR limits. This structure reduces transparency, weakens voter oversight, and allows government to grow without direct accountability to taxpayers. That should concern everyone in this room, regardless of political perspective.

If the goal is to address healthcare affordability, then we should be focused on cost containment, competition, and innovation—not building new bureaucracies and funding them through indirect taxation.

This bill does none of that.

Instead, it expands government, increases costs, and shifts the burden onto working families in a way that is less visible—but no less real.

Colorado taxpayers deserve honesty, transparency, and fiscal responsibility. This bill falls short on all three.

I respectfully urge you to vote no.

Thank you for your time.

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