

House Health & Human Services

03/31/2026 Upon Adjournment

HB26-1328 Medicaid Nonemergency Medical Transportation

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Ella Bannick For themselves	<p>Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Ella Bannick, and I am a registered nurse specializing in pediatric care. I am writing to express my strong support for HB26-1328, which addresses Medicaid Nonemergency Medical Transportation.</p> <p>In my work as a pediatric RN, I see firsthand how transportation barriers directly impact children’s health. Many of the families I serve rely on Medicaid and face significant challenges getting their children to essential medical appointments, therapies, and follow-up care. When transportation is unreliable, unavailable, or difficult to coordinate, children miss critical services that are necessary for their growth, development, and long-term well-being.</p> <p>I have cared for children with chronic conditions—such as asthma, diabetes, and developmental delays—who require consistent, ongoing care. Missed appointments due to lack of transportation often result in worsening conditions, preventable emergency department visits, and hospitalizations. For children receiving therapies such as physical, occupational, or speech therapy, gaps in attendance can delay developmental progress and have lasting consequences.</p>

	<p>Transportation is not just a logistical issue; it is a healthcare access issue. When families cannot reliably get to appointments, the entire care plan is disrupted. Parents and caregivers are often doing their best under difficult circumstances, but without dependable transportation options, even the most engaged families can struggle to keep up with complex medical schedules.</p> <p>HB26-1328 is an important step toward addressing these barriers. By strengthening and improving nonemergency medical transportation services under Medicaid, this legislation helps ensure that children can access preventive care, specialty services, and necessary treatments in a timely manner. This not only improves individual health outcomes but also reduces strain on the healthcare system by decreasing avoidable emergency visits and hospital admissions.</p> <p>From a pediatric perspective, early and consistent access to care is critical. Supporting transportation infrastructure is a practical and effective way to promote health equity, particularly for low-income and medically vulnerable populations.</p> <p>As a nurse, I am committed to advocating for systems that allow children to receive the care they need without unnecessary barriers. Reliable transportation is a fundamental part of that system.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Molly Kirkham For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Molly, I am 26, and I am an individual with disabilities who relies on support. I strongly support HB26’s 1328 because it is a beginning – a crucial step to ensure people with disabilities and Medicaid members can get to the care they need. Imagine needing to get to a life-saving appointment but having no way to get there. This is the reality for too many Coloradans. HB26’s 1328 can change that – giving people the transportation they need to stay healthy, independent, and safe.</p>

	<p>Transportation isn't just about getting somewhere it's about health, independence, and safety. I've seen people struggle to reach therapy or doctor visits. I even missed a follow-up appointment myself because no rides were available, which caused weeks of stress and difficulty. Reliable transportation means living life without constant worry about getting to care or appointments. Without it, people cannot live full, independent lives. This bill could make a real difference for people like me.</p> <p>Nearly 1 in 5 Medicaid members in Colorado miss medical care due to transportation barriers more than double the rate of people with private insurance. Over 15% of Coloradans have a disability, and many rely on Medicaid and NEMT to reach essential care. Transportation isn't just about appointments it's also about work, school, or basic errands. Sometimes no rides are available for therapy, which delays care and adds stress.</p> <p>HB26's 1328, a bipartisan 2026 Colorado bill, focuses on non-emergency medical transportation for Medicaid members. Health First Colorado already provides Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) to help members get to appointments and therapy. This bill strengthens that safety net, ensuring transportation barriers don't prevent anyone from receiving care. (hcpf.colorado.gov)</p> <p>)</p> <p>Transportation is about more than getting from point A to B it's about independence, safety, and the ability to live a full life. I support HB26's 1328 because it is a beginning a critical step to give people with disabilities and Medicaid members the access they deserve. I also believe the bill could be stronger to fully address all accessibility needs and ensure no one is left behind. Supporting it now is an essential step to protect lives, independence, and dignity for all who rely on these services, including individuals with disabilities like me.</p>
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	I urge you to vote YES
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