

House Health & Human Services

04/15/2026

HB26-1347 Federal Disability Benefits for Foster Care Youth

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Davon Williams For themselves	<p>Written Testimony “ HB26-1347</p> <p>Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Davon Williams, and I previously served as a director within a public school district. I am also currently a candidate for House District 3. I am offering these comments from the perspective of someone who has worked with young people navigating complex systems and barriers, and who has seen firsthand how policy decisions translate into real-life outcomes.</p> <p>HB26-1347 addresses an important issue affecting foster youth who receive federal disability benefits. Specifically, this bill ensures that federal benefits received on behalf of foster youth are preserved for their use, rather than being used to offset system costs. This is a meaningful structural change that better aligns the intent of these federal resources with the needs of the youth they are meant to support.</p> <p>In my experience working within public systems, small policy decisions can have lasting consequences. For young people in foster care”many of whom are already navigating instability, trauma, and limited support networks”access to financial resources can play a critical role in their transition to independence. Whether it is securing housing, continuing education, or meeting basic needs, these funds can represent a rare form of stability.</p> <p>Ensuring that these benefits are protected and set aside for the youth themselves helps create a more equitable foundation as they move into adulthood. It also reflects a broader commitment to treating these</p>

	<p>individuals not simply as participants in a system, but as young people with futures that deserve investment and care.</p> <p>I appreciate the intent of this legislation and the thoughtful approach it takes to aligning policy with outcomes. Measures like this can help strengthen trust in public systems and improve long-term outcomes for some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Davon Williams</p>
<p>Korey Elger Amend Colorado Department of Human Services</p>	<p>Good afternoon Madame Chair and members of the committee my name is Korey Elgers and I am the Co-Deputy Director of the Division of Child Welfare at the Colorado Department of Human Services. I am here today in an amend position.</p> <p>We know how important it is to support children and youth in our foster care system and appreciate the ongoing conversations around this very complicated topic.</p> <p>We still have some concerns with this bill as introduced, but appreciate the sponsors and advocates listening to our concerns and are committed to continuing to work on this topic.</p> <p>The department has been actively engaged in the work of survivor benefits bill HB25-1271 over the past 8 months, and can attest to how much work this is for both the state and the counties, and the importance of ensuring benefits for children and youth are not compromised.</p> <p>We want to make sure that children and young people who are served by the child welfare system are able to get the most out of any benefits that they may be eligible for and how that can benefit them while they are being served by the child welfare system and beyond if they are eligible.</p>

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