

Hi Chair and Members of the Committee

I'm Dawn Howard with Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition. CCDC works for the social Justice of all Coloradoans with disabilities. We are an amend on HB23-1204. Residents need the protection of due process before being evicted from a sober living residence. Colorado is in the midst of a housing crisis. It is important to provide opportunities for people to remain housed and situations fairly assessed .We recommend amending the bill

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services
03/07/2023 01:30 PM
HB23-1204 Recovery Residence Discharge Policy
Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Caitlin Davis Against themselves</p>	<p>Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Caitlin Davis and I am a foster parent and kinship foster parent.</p> <p>I am testifying in against HR23-1024. I live in Mesa County. I have fostered for almost 5 years and I have helped kiddos reunite with family, adopted and currently fostering.</p> <p>Our current placement was placed in our home at 3 days old with mom’s participation briefly and dad incarcerated. Dad was unable to participate for 16 months. Without the ability to intervene it would have been even hard for us to help this kid. Our case is complex and this is supposed to be an expedited case. And without being able to get involved before 12 months, we wouldn’t have been able to help advocate for our child. We are trying our best to help parents, and keep the siblings who are bonded. Without intervening, we wouldn’t have been able to have that voice in court.</p> <p>Right now this bill changes the foster parent's right to intervene to 12 months, right now it is 3 months, so if we weren’t able to intervene with this we wouldn’t know how to help support him. We are not privy to a lot of information as foster parents and that is hard when we are trying to help kids, especially who are pre verbal, navigate a complicated process. Attachment is crucial at young ages. If kinship foster parents aren’t allowed to talk about attachment and talk about how that affects a child and their behaviors then it will be detrimental to these children. These are very vulnerable children who need someone who can come alongside them and advocate for them.</p> <p>With expedited time frames there is no way to be able to advocate if you cannot intervene before the 12 months. With all of our cases, decisions are made at the six month mark. Foster parents, placements and kinship providers are the bridge to help gapping the relationship between parents and child often. We do have a role to play in the children’s lives, and should have rights to be able to help them.</p> <p>We want to help these kids and families. This bill does not make sense when we look at all the parts and pieces involved. I want to help these children go back to secure, placements and healthy families so that they are not in and out of the system. I want to be able to advocate for these children in court. I would not be able to do that in my current case with this bill.</p>

	Thank you for your time and I would ask you to no move forward with this bill as it could be detrimental to many children and families.
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