

Senate Health & Human Services
 04/05/2023 Upon Adjournment
 HB23-1204 Recovery Residence Discharge Policy
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Aubrey Wilde Amend Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	<p>The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is in a respectful amend position on HB23-1204. For nearly 40 years, the Coalition has worked collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for families, children, and individuals who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado. The Coalition owns and operates over 2,000 units of housing and administers roughly 2,500 vouchers. A few of our properties restrict substance use, but we do not operate sober living as it is defined in Colorado law.</p> <p>We appreciate the intent of the bill and do not believe one person or group of individuals should not be allowed to risk others' success in a sober living program. While this bill is not intended to be a housing bill, it has very real housing implications and could result in more people falling into homelessness. We have significant due process concerns, specifically in the event people are falsely or mistakenly accused of using or bringing substances into a sober living facility.</p> <p>We are happy to see language about referrals to community services and housing, but it is only meaningful if resources are accessible, and we know that housing and in-patient treatment is far from it. We are also grateful to the sponsors for amendments that will slow the discharge process slightly in some cases and increase requirements around contacting family members/emergency contacts. However, the Coalition would prefer to see either 1) a provision that allows residents to remain housed during the appeal process or 2) one that includes infractions that put others at risk in the definition of substantial violations in landlord-tenant law, allowing an accelerated eviction process and preserving due process.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>



written testimony SB23-210Jeanette Snider to: committees.lcs.ga 04/05/2023 09:07 AM

Hello there,

I am in a Diversity University training today and would like to submit a written testimony but may have navigated the submission incorrectly I am hoping you will help me get my message submitted correctly.

SB23-210 Is a new innovative civic engagement platform that has lived experience of the policies and procedures that have actively impacted them. By compensating the Family Voice Council attendance and engagement of the topic becomes very personal and intimate because it not only carries the message further because it also validates that the sharing matters and brings solution-based conversations forward. Many of the people who are represented within SB23-210 are in poverty and want to help the HHS align practices with results-driven proposals. Being part of the Family Voice Council has taught me civic engagement in a very powerful way and the stipend validates that participation. In the end I do a lot more work than I am paid for and have great attendance and would love to see this type of program brought to more government entities that service low-income populations. My hope is that we do so well that our HHS offices get five-star reviews and become the place where they are given the power to their voice to develop resources for themselves and community members in the future. Without SB23-210 the siloed issues would not have user feedback considered to the same degree because participation would be much less than it currently is. We have a short time to participate that leaves a lifetime of empowerment and let us not stop doing what works. It is a type of employment that comes with mentoring and achieves the goals set out to empower those who have been overlooked or silenced. I think there are more great things to come from this group and the ripple effect of the engagement seems to carry across the nation. I am beyond thankful for the opportunity to learn and grow and feel valued and compensated. Thank you.

Jeanette Snider

She/her [What's this](#)

970.493.4594

SB23-210 is a new innovative civic engagement platform that has lived experience of the policies and procedures that have actively impacted them. By compensating the Family Voice Council attendance and engagement of the topic becomes very personal and intimate because it not only carries the message further because it also validates that the sharing matters and brings solution-based conversations forward. Many of the people who are represented within SB23-210 are in poverty and want to help the HHS align practices with results-driven proposals. Being part of the Family Voice Council has taught me civic engagement in a very powerful way and the stipend validates that participation. In the end I do a lot more work than I am paid for and have great attendance and would love to see this type of program brought to more government entities that service low-income populations. My hope is that we do so well that our HHS offices get five-star reviews and become the place where they are given the power to their voice to develop resources for themselves and community members in the future. Without SB23-210 the siloed issues would not have user feedback considered to the same degree because participation would be much less than it currently is. We have a short time to participate that leaves a lifetime of empowerment and let us not stop doing what works. It is a type of employment that comes with mentoring and achieves the goals set out to empower those who have been overlooked or silenced. I think there are more great things to come from this group and the ripple effect of the engagement seems to carry across the nation. I am beyond thankful for the opportunity to learn and grow and feel valued and compensated. Thank you.

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Written Testimony in support of SB23-210 “Update Administration of Certain Human Services” by Sarah Barnes, Director of Family Economic Prosperity Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

April 5, 2023, upon adjournment

SCR 357

- Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Sarah Barnes and I am the Director of Family Economic Prosperity Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign.
- The Colorado Children’s Campaign is a non-profit, non-partisan, policy, research and advocacy organization, committed to securing every chance for every child in Colorado since our founding in 1985.
- Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB23-210.
- We believe crafting strong equity-informed policy must include meaningful engagement with directly impacted individuals and groups throughout the policy development phase, the legislative process, and during implementation.
- It is also critically important that any boards, commissions, and task forces in Colorado represent the diversity of our state, including strong representation from directly affected communities.
- It is not enough to list those individuals or groups who should be appointed or considered for government boards, commissions, and task forces. Reducing the barriers to participation and supporting individuals’ ability to engage meaningfully are just as important.
- This includes compensating individuals for their time and expertise, especially community members and those who are not government employees already paid to participate.
- SB23-210 would allow for compensation of members of boards and commissions who have lived experience. This is a critical step toward centering and valuing the expertise of directly impacted individuals.
- We urge your support of SB23-210. Thank you.