



May 2, 2023

Dear Chair Jaquez Lewis and members of the Local Government & Housing Committee,

On behalf of Children's Hospital Colorado as well as the patients, families, and communities we serve, I am writing to respectfully ask for your **vote in support of HB23-1304, Proposition 123 Affordable Housing Program (Senator Roberts and Senator Exum)**, that that will increase flexibility in the housing affordability programs approved by voters with the passage of Proposition 123 in the 2022 election.

Children's Hospital Colorado is proud to partner with the community to advocate for the health and well-being of kids and families. Our work goes beyond our hospital walls and into the communities we support. In addition to our patient care, Children's Hospital Colorado supports families by providing care coordination, advocacy and facilitating access to community programs and resources.

Access to safe, quality, and affordable housing is one of the most pressing health-related issues currently facing many of our patients and families. High housing costs may force low-income families to make trade-offs between food and other basic needs instead of medical care and treatment.

Research has shown that children in areas with higher rates of unaffordable housing tended to have worse health, more behavioral problems and lower school performance (Levine Colley et al, 2013). Research shows that living in a stable, safe home that is affordable to a family yields a multitude of opportunities and stronger outcomes for children, youth, and families. According to a 2011 study published in the American Journal of Public Health, educational outcomes for children can be improved with housing stability; young people in stable housing are less likely to repeat a grade and less likely to drop out of school. Ultimately, stable and affordable housing has long-lasting effects that can impact health, education, and employment throughout people's lives and in future generations.

The lack of affordable housing in Colorado also makes it too difficult for many families to afford rent or buy their own home. Our workforce often cannot afford to live where they work. Every family deserves to live in the communities they work in, and this bill will help Colorado by creating additional housing options that are affordable for Colorado's families in all corners of our state.

HB23-1304 will ensure the housing affordability programs created through voter-approved Proposition 123, can be implemented effectively across the state and have the greatest impact by getting dollars out expediently. Proposition 123 will dedicate an estimated \$300 million to help local governments purchase land for affordable homes, provide financing for low- and middle income multi-family housing and provide direct support to renters, supply debt financing for projects that qualify for housing tax credits, offer grants and loans for nonprofits to help people purchase homes, and fund programs for people experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for your continued support of the health and wellbeing of Colorado kids. In this effort, I encourage you to vote in favor of HB23-1304 to support Colorado's children and families have access to affordable housing.

Sincerely,

Ellen Stern  
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