

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services
04/11/2023 01:30 PM
SB23-151 Sunset Health Equity Commission
Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Yolanda Webb For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you Madame Chairs and Members of the committee. I'm Yolanda Webb, the director of the Office of Adult, Aging and Disability Services at the Department of Human Services. I am honored to represent the Colorado Department of Human Services on our state's Health Equity Commission and proud to serve as its co-chair.</p> <p>Let me tell you why I strongly support the continuation of Colorado's Health Equity Commission, and ask that you would strongly support SB23-151 as well.</p> <p>First, let me thank our bill sponsors, Senator Fields and Representatives Jodeh and Ortiz, for their leadership on this bill.</p> <p>As a member of the Health Equity Commission (also known as the HEC) and in service to all of the citizens of the state of Colorado, our role is to advise the Office of Health Equity on strategies to advance health equity for all Coloradans.</p> <p>I firmly believe that the Health Equity Commission (HEC) has been effective in moving toward equity in underrepresented communities and has created a voice of accountability for all state agencies.</p> <p>The HEC is engaged with the Office of Health Equity and provides guidance and support to the Health Disparities and Community Grant Program to allocate state resources to support the work of 44 community organizations.</p> <p>The HEC has engaged underrepresented communities through these investment strategies in community organizations which are close to and in the neighborhoods they serve. This form of on the ground, trust based grant-making is evidenced and research based to not only change communities, but to help sustain lasting change in the social determinants of health.</p> <p>Part of the Commission's goals for our state agencies is to bring equity to underrepresented communities through changes in policy and state systems. These changes will help advance health equity by operationalizing policies and programs that support health for all Coloradans served by our state departments. This work will bring state agencies together to fundamentally address health inequities (and not just primary health care)</p>

	<p>A continuation of the HEC is imperative to ensure the continued change in inequities all of our communities and to provide the resources that are necessary to achieve its mission on behalf of the state and all Coloradans.</p> <p>Again, I strongly support SB23-151 to continue the HEC and urge you to strongly support it with a resounding "YES" vote.</p>
<p>Hilda Nucete For themselves</p>	<p>April 11, 2023</p> <p>Testimony in Support of the Indefinite Continuation of the Health Equity Commission Senate Bill 23-151, House Public and Behavioral Health and Human Services Committee Hilda Nucete, Co-Chair of Health Equity Commission, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment</p> <p>----- ----- -----</p> <p>Dear Chair and committee members, My name is Hilda Nucete, I am the Co Chair of the Health Equity Commission (HEC) and former Colorado Environmental Justice Task Force Member. I also lead a local non profit called Headwaters Protectors which provides dignified water, health products and trash services to people experiencing homelessness in the City of Denver. I strongly support SB23-151 to continue the Health Equity Commission, consistent with findings from the sunset review report by the Department of Regulatory Agencies. I want to give a thanks to the sponsors, Senator Fields and Representatives Jodeh and Ortiz, for their continued support for health equity in our communities and leadership on this bill.</p> <p>The Health Equity Commission’s purpose is to advise the Office of Health Equity on strategies to advance health equity and environmental justice for all Coloradans. The HEC is a bridge for supporting historically underrepresented populations through investment in community based organizations who are closest to the solutions to create concrete policy and state systems changes. The HEC also serves as a soundboard for communities to express concerns, as a platform for community voice, input and accountability. The HEC is an instrumental part of community oversight, which the CO Environmental Justice Action Task Force recommendations make clear is an important function for equity and for building faith in community and government collaboration.</p> <p>A continuation of the HEC is imperative for the continuity of its mission and in order to achieve its vision. The HEC is beneficial to frontline underrepresented and under-resourced communities whose lives are made more difficult by disparities in the social determinants</p>

	<p>of health. Through a continuation of the HEC, we can create a healthier and more equitable community for all of the people of the State of Colorado.</p> <p>I strongly support SB23-151 to continue the HEC and request that you strongly support it with a resounding "YES" vote.</p>
<p>Shawn Davis For themselves</p>	<p>Concerning SB-23-151 Continuing Funding for the Health Equity Commission</p> <p>Good afternoon Madame Chair and committee members. My name is Shawn Davis, PDF Consulting. I am a member of the Health Equity Commission (HEC). I am also a Arapahoe County Public Health Department Board member and work with Rocky Mountain Health Plans in 22 counties on the Western Slope addressing health equity. I strongly support SB23-151 to continue the Health Equity Commission, consistent with findings from the sunset review report by the Department of Regulatory Agencies. And, thank you to the sponsors, Senator Fields and Representatives Jodeh and Ortiz, for their leadership on this bill, and this is why:</p> <p>The Health Equity Commission (HEC) is effective in moving toward equity in underrepresented communities through changes in policy and state systems. This is as close to a core change as is possible for a state agency.</p> <p>The HEC has engaged underrepresented communities through investment in community organizations close to the underrepresented populations.</p> <p>The state agencies have participated in our work group and are working to 1) develop health equity plans at each state agency, and 2) ensure coordination in addressing the disparities in each agency's respective area.</p> <p>The HEC has mitigated the "silo effect" in equity related work across state agencies.</p> <p>The HEC also disrupts the school to prison pipeline with the inclusion of the Department of Education and Department of Corrections as commission members.</p> <p>A continuation of the HEC is imperative to ensure the continuity of its mission as well as appropriate time and resources to achieve its mission on behalf of the state and all Coloradans. The HEC helps the State of Colorado but will be especially beneficial to underrepresented communities and under-resourced communities whose lives are made more difficult by disparities in the social determinants of health, as they are compounded throughout a lifetime. Through a continuation of the HEC, we can create a healthier community for all of the people of the State of Colorado.</p> <p>I strongly support SB23-151 to continue the HEC and request that you strongly support it with a resounding "YES" vote.</p>

	Thank you, to the sponsors of this bill. Thank you, Committee, for listening.
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