

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services
04/18/2023 01:30 PM
SB23-031 Improve Health-care Access For Older Coloradans
Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Suze Kanack For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to let my legislators know how important this is to my rural community. As with the rest of the State we have a larger population of older citizens. While this is beautiful it does pose the problem of how do we give this population the care they deserve. Now, we are an active group but we all age and when you get to the end of age you need someone to listen. This needs to be trained and practiced. I want you to think of your parent, grandparent, or just a loved member of the community. We need to take care of them. Again, I thank you for this opportunity to tell my story as someone that hopes to get there. And I wish you all the same.</p>
<p>Ann Witherspoon For themselves</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Ann Witherspoon and I am testifying in favor of SB23-031. In both my professional and personal life, I have been made acutely aware of the need for more geriatric-trained healthcare professionals. Professionally, I work for the Society of Certified Senior Advisors, a national organization of multi-disciplinary professionals passionate about serving their older clients well. Our members recognize the need to be educated on the specific challenges their older clients can face - financially, socially, and medically - in order to serve them in the best way possible. Healthcare professionals trained to care for older adults are much better equipped to recognize and treat the multiple issues that older adults can face. Personally, I've observed the healthcare provided to my parents as they've gotten older. I also have a daughter studying to become a physician assistant who works part-time as a caregiver to older adults, and has come to fully appreciate the need for training in geriatrics. With more geriatrics training, our healthcare professionals will be better equipped to handle the specific needs of Colorado's growing older adult population. Thank you.</p>