

Written Testimony as Prepared for Delivery in Support of **SB21-016: Protecting Preventive Health Care Coverage** by Erin Miller, Vice President, Health Initiatives, Colorado Children's Campaign

House Health and Insurance

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1:30PM

Virtual Testimony

- Thank you, Chair Lontine and members of the committee.
- My name is Erin Miller and I'm Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Colorado Children's Campaign.
- I am here in strong support of this bill and with appreciation to Representatives Esgar and Mullica for bringing it forward.
- This bill expands access to contraceptive services by requiring that all forms of contraception be covered without cost sharing.
- Contraceptive equity is an evidence-based policy to further reduce unintended pregnancy in Colorado.
- While the Affordable Care Act requires all health plans to cover at least one contraceptive method in each of 18 categories without cost-sharing, coverage gaps and surprise billing continue to impact patients with both private insurance and Medicaid and this bill will help address these issues.
- Colorado has made great strides in reducing unintended and teen pregnancy over the last decade and expanding access to contraceptives in private plans is one key part of a multiprong strategy to ensure that Coloradans can plan their families in a way that makes sense for them and chart their own futures.
- Several states have already implemented this policy and seen tremendous success in further reducing unintended pregnancy rates.
- For example, in 2014, California passed legislation requiring all private plans to provide coverage for all prescribed FDA-approved contraceptives for women without cost-sharing.
- An analysis by the California Health Benefits Review Program projected that the policy would result in cost savings due to averted unintended pregnancies and deliveries through increased use of contraceptives. It also found that the policy would reduce the rate of unintended pregnancies and abortions over the long-term, resulting in a corresponding decrease in the

risk of maternal mortality, adverse child health outcomes, behavioral problems in children, and negative psychological outcomes associated with unintended pregnancies for both mothers and children.

- I want to thank Planned Parenthood for the stakeholder process they have engaged in around this bill and their partnership in crafting this policy.
- This bill is a critical step in reducing unintended pregnancies and supporting healthy pregnancies and early parenthood in Colorado and we urge its support, and I am happy to take any questions.