

Testimony as Prepared for Delivery in support of SB 23-182 Temporary Suspension of Medicaid Requirements by Erin Miller, Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign

Senate Appropriations Committee

March 16, 2023

LSB-B

- Good early morning, members of the committee. My name is Erin Miller and I am Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign. Together with our partner organizations and communities across the state, we advocate for a world in which, without exception, public policies and investments remove barriers for the most impacted children and families and improve well-being for every child and family.
- I am here to testify in support of SB23-182 “Temporary Suspension of Medicaid Requirements.”
- The Children’s Campaign – along with our partners at Colorado Community Health Network and Mental Health Colorado -- supports this bill because it will help to ensure as smooth as possible an unwind from the continuous coverage provisions enacted during the Public Health Emergency.
- This bill will allow our Medicaid Department to take the time it needs to review the coverage eligibility of all members, without automatically ending coverage at critical moments – for example in the postpartum period, or when a child turns one – when the AAP recommends an additional three well-child visits in the child’s second year of life.¹
- Colorado has been a national leader in maintaining health insurance coverage for eligible kids. And in fact, Colorado was one of five states that saw the largest gains in insurance coverage among children during the pandemic.²
- Continuous coverage reduces family stress,³ increases the use of preventive services⁴ – including preventive oral health services⁵ – and reduces costly avoidable hospitalizations⁶ – especially among populations who face overlapping systemic barriers to health.
- We know that hundreds of thousands of Colorado kids are at risk of losing their health insurance during this unwind. National research indicates that children are the most likely group to lose coverage during this transition and that the vast majority of kids who

¹ [Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics](#) “Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care”

² [Center for Children & Families \(CCF\)](#) of the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, 2023

³ [Association for Community Affiliated Plans](#), 2021

⁴ [Medical Care Research Review](#), 2022.

⁵ [Medicare and Medicaid Research Review](#), 2013

⁶ [Medical Care](#), 2008

do lose coverage will lose it due to administrative paperwork errors.⁷ So we are very supportive of the Medicaid Department taking the time that it needs to outreach to families and carefully review the eligibility status of all children and their families.

- Further, by aligning our program with federal law, this bill also safeguards our federal matching funds for our Medicaid and CHIP programs.
- I urge your support of this bill and I am happy to take any questions.

⁷ [HHS](#), ASPE, 2022