

Testimony as Prepared for Delivery in support of SB23-189: Increasing Access To Reproductive Health Care by Erin Miller, Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign

Senate Health & Human Services

March 15, 2023, Upon Adjournment

Old State Library

- Good afternoon, 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 SB23-189 “Increasing Access To Reproductive Health Care.”
- The Children’s Campaign strongly supports this bill because it will secure access to critical preventive services included in the Affordable Care Act in Colorado statute and expand access to high-value reproductive health care.
- The bill ensures that Colorado-regulated health plans will continue to cover preventive services regardless of pending federal court rulings. These critical services include preventive fluoride application to prevent cavities in young children, urinary incontinence screening for women, and the provision of breastfeeding services and supplies.
- The bill further expands access to reproductive health care by requiring plans to cover abortion care and male sterilization procedures without cost-sharing.
- The Children’s Campaign supports expanded access to abortion care because we believe in the right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and care for a family in safe, sustainable, supportive communities where the health, well-being and happiness of children is our shared highest priority. Further, actuarial studies conclude that “coverage of abortion with no member cost share will improve equity between gender, race/ethnicity, and income level.”¹
- Increased affordability for male sterilization procedures is important as well, because female sterilization is already offered without cost-sharing, but women should not be required to bear the burden of that procedure in order to reduce their out-of-pocket costs – when male sterilization is a simpler procedure with fewer risks than female

¹ [State of Colorado](#), New Health Benefit Coverage Study: Addendum, Feb. 2023

sterilization. Further, actuarial reviews indicate that expanded access to male sterilizations services will be cost-saving.²

- Lastly, we strongly support the expansion of services for undocumented Coloradans already offered by Medicaid to include family-planning-related services such as tobacco cessation services, cervical cancer screening and prevention, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and diseases.
- A study of these proposed benefits and their impact on Coloradans concluded, “All the proposed benefits with no member cost share are expected to improve equity in the state of Colorado.” Specifically, the study noted that these benefits will improve the educational and financial outcomes and overall well-being of women of color with low incomes across our state.³
- I urge your support of this bill and I am happy to take any questions.

² [State of Colorado](#), New Health Benefit Coverage Study, Feb. 2023 and [California Health Benefits Review Program](#) April 2021

³ [State of Colorado](#), New Health Benefit Coverage Study, Feb. 2023