

Written Testimony as Prepared for Delivery in Support of SB 18-214, Request Self-sufficiency Waiver Medicaid Program, Senate Health & Human Services Committee, March 29, 2018 – Erin Miller, Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign

- Thank you, Chairman Smallwood and members of the committee for having me here today.
- My name is Erin Miller, I’m Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign. We oppose Senate bill 214 because it will jeopardize the health and wellbeing of the hundreds of thousands of Colorado kids who use Medicaid for their health insurance coverage.
- Analyses in other states that have proposed similar work requirements show that the requirements and administrative burdens proposed in this bill will cause thousands of Colorado parents to lose their Medicaid coverage. This loss of coverage will cause numerous challenges for kids in Colorado:
  1. Sick parents who cannot access health care cannot be the kind of parents that they want to be to their children. For example, the Oregon Medicaid Experiment showed that Medicaid coverage reduced the risk if screening positive for depression among adults by 30%. Without Medicaid coverage, parents are more likely to suffer from depression and may not be able to interact with their kids the way they would like to.
  2. When parents lose health insurance coverage, it puts a family one accident away from bankruptcy. The toxic stressed caused by financial stress negatively impacts a child’s development.
  3. Research shows that when parents lose coverage, their children are more likely to go without health insurance coverage as well – further increasing a family’s financial stress and making it so that child no longer has access to the critical preventive services he needs to stay healthy.
- This bill jeopardizes child health and wellbeing in Colorado and we urge you to vote NO.