

**Testimony as Prepared for Delivery in support of HB23-1215: Limits on Hospital Facility Fees by Hunter Nelson, Policy Analyst at the Colorado Children's Campaign**

**House Health & Insurance Committee**

**March 24, 2023, Upon Adjournment**

**HCR 0112**

- Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Hunter Nelson, and I am a Policy Analyst at the Colorado Children's Campaign. Together with our partner organizations and communities across the state, we advocate for the development and implementation of data-driven public policy that improves child and family well-being. We fight for a world in which, without exception, public policies and investments remove barriers for most impacted children and families and improve well-being for every child and every family.
- The Children's Campaign strongly supports HB23-1215 "Limits on Hospital Facility Fees."
- Hospital facility fees place significant financial burdens on families with children and are increasingly being added to bills for diagnostic testing and routine health care. This has been increasingly prevalent throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the National Academy for State Health Policy, one state employee health plan's claims show that facility fees charged for COVID-19 testing in outpatient hospital settings ranged from \$53 to \$150 per test – culminating in \$344,589 in additional costs over several months for employees.<sup>1</sup>
- About 60% of Coloradans report that they do not think their health care costs are very affordable.<sup>2</sup> Also, more than 10% of Coloradans reported having trouble paying their medical bills in 2021. Facility fees exacerbate this issue.
- Coloradans who have less flexibility to choose when and where they go to the doctor are more likely to have to pay facility fees. Parents who do not get paid leave from their employers, many working in lower-wage jobs, are more likely to seek medical care at urgent care facilities and other hospital-affiliated clinics that are open at times when they do not have to be at work. This makes them even more likely to be burdened by expensive facility fees.
- Families who seek care from a specialist such as an OB/GYN or a pediatrician in an outpatient clinic or through telehealth are also subject to hospital facility fees. When clinics are affiliated with a hospital system despite not being visibly advertised as such, families are often caught off-guard by the hospital facility fee tacked onto their medical bill. This can have significant financial impacts on low- and middle-income households.
- These fees have real impacts on families in our network and people experience them when seeking both needed pediatric and perinatal care. We hear about the financial and emotional strain of these fees, and stories of folks delaying or skipping important care because of the potential for receiving a bill for a facility fee.
- HB23-1215 will help increase access to care and reduce financial burden on families across Colorado. **Please vote yes on HB23-1215.** Thank you

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<sup>1</sup> [Combat Rising Health Care Costs by Limiting Facility Fees with New NASHP Model Law - NASHP](#)

<sup>2</sup> 2022 RWJF Health Care Affordability Survey.