

**House Health & Human Services**

**02/17/2026 Upon Adjournment**

**HB26-1096 CO Medicaid Access to Primary Care Services**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Leo Nunes  For  Nunes Partners LLC	<p>Leo Nunes “ Colorado Springs Resident, Small Business Owner, Healthcare Advocate, Prostate Cancer Patient and Advocate</p> <p>Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Leo Nunes. I’m a Colorado resident, a small business owner in the healthcare benefits space, and someone who has personally navigated our healthcare system as a patient.</p> <p>I am here today in strong support of HB 26-1096 because at its core, this bill is about something very simple: Choice.</p> <p>Medicaid participants deserve the same freedom the rest of us have when it comes to primary care. They deserve the ability to choose a care model that works best for them and their families “ including direct primary care.</p> <p>Right now, too many Medicaid patients face long wait times, limited provider networks, and rushed appointments. That’s not because providers don’t care “ it’s because the system is strained. Direct primary care offers an alternative model that prioritizes time, relationship, accessibility, and prevention. It allows patients to build real continuity with their physician.</p>

	<p>This bill does not dismantle Medicaid.</p> <p>It does not remove benefits.</p> <p>It does not increase bureaucracy.</p> <p>It simply says: if a Medicaid member wants to enter into a direct primary care agreement with their own funds, the state should not stand in their way.</p> <p>As someone who works in healthcare benefits every day, I can tell you innovation in primary care is desperately needed. We talk constantly about improving outcomes and reducing downstream costs “ but those goals start with access to strong primary care relationships. When patients can actually see their doctor, talk to their doctor, and be known by their doctor, outcomes improve.</p> <p>And from a fiscal standpoint, this bill carries minimal impact to the state budget. It expands freedom without expanding spending. That’s responsible policy.</p> <p>We often say we want equity in healthcare. Equity doesn’t mean limiting options. It means expanding them.</p> <p>Medicaid participants should not be treated as second-class healthcare consumers. They deserve autonomy, dignity, and the ability to pursue care models that emphasize prevention and personalized attention.</p> <p>HB 26-1096 moves Colorado in that direction.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to support this bill.</p>
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