

May 2, 2022. CO

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for your time today. My name is Jenny Inman, I am speaking for my son, Lukas, age 23. I oppose the bill today and support the strike amendment put forth by the hemp industry, because of what it means to my son's quality of life. CBD cut my son's seizures by 40%. And that has been the only sustainable treatment for him. My son cannot take a lot of pharmaceuticals or strictly THC, as they aggravate his epilepsy and autism. CBD has been the primary difference between my son staying at home versus attending school, day program and hopefully one day, employment. As parents and adults in Colorado, we all want our kids to grow to be productive members of society. If you take away access to CBD, you are taking away my child's future, along with many others in the state. You need to have citizens vote on this before rushing legislation through without doing your due diligence. Keeping CBD legal here, will only help promote the CO state economy and keep jobs here. Colorado has an opportunity to be leaders in the hemp industry. It could have the respect for both growing our economy and saving patient lives. It would be a win/win for both our state's financial and our children's future. I ask that you do not take away Lukas' access to CBD.

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**Dena L. Wilson**

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May 1, 2022

**REGARDING: SB22-205**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. My name is Dena Wilson. I represent myself and my 9 year old daughter, Marley Nadean Wilson. I oppose the bill in its original form and support the strike below amendment being proposed by the hemp industry.

It really frankly terrifies me to think that just a handful of people can propose enormous, powerful changes that can affect so many families, including my own. The most terrifying part is that this can move forward without so much as a peep of communication to give us a chance for us to come together to stand up and be heard.

My daughter, Marley Nadean Wilson, is 9 years old and has epilepsy (seizures) as well as non-verbal autism. She is a beautiful, sweet, kind soul that warms the heart of everyone she meets. Marley was born in Central Pennsylvania in 2012. Our local, rural hospital did not have the kind of care that we needed for our child, so we had to travel 2.5 hours to Pittsburgh Children's Hospital for Neurological care for our child.

My daughter has two big brothers. They were 11 and 9 when Marley was born. Their life as they knew it changed, just like ours. They watched their little sister suffering from seizures, being 2.5 hours from the hospital, trying every pharmaceutical under the sun and still struggling. The medications were being piled on and that made her fall further and further behind developmentally. They were watching their sister seizing sometimes 11 times a day and nothing helped. We were all so scared and felt enormously hopeless.

Pittsburgh Children's hospital had proposed to do a brain surgery on Marley that we were not convinced would help and may further push her behind, or even worse. We started to do some research on other types of treatments that may be outside of the box. Medical marijuana came onto our radar and very shortly thereafter, we saw a news program: Weed with Dr. Sanjay Gupta on television. Dr. Gupta was talking to and about Paige Figi and her beautiful daughter, Charlotte, and how it had helped their child - and others! We watched this vulnerable family talk so openly about their struggles, their strides and their hard work to get this medical marijuana more readily available for those in the same boat, and it hit so very close to home... even though we were at the time 1,700 miles away from this family. We saw this on television and for the first time, we had hope. To a family that had none, this was an enormous sign

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to us.

We were on a plane to Colorado to meet with Realm of Caring, a 501c3 organization, about a week later from Central Pennsylvania. We immediately had this group (Realm of Caring) to help us navigate this scary transition, this huge step. RoC was doing their research, they were/are educating with science, with FACT, compiling this observational research in order for others to be able to utilize this hemp plant scientifically and with data to back it's claims. We knew we had to go to this group because they were knowledgeable, helpful and they felt like family immediately. These people NEED to continue to exist to help people like us and the many others that come behind us, trying to navigate out of the darkness and into the light of research.

This group connected us with people that are still what I would refer to as family and not just advisors in this medical marijuana field. We needed help and direction, and they were there.

Without the RoC and their guidance, as well as Charlotte's Web hemp oil and other medical marijuana products, I'm not sure where we would even be right now with our daughter. The first time she tried hemp, she went 2 weeks without a seizure. She hadn't done that for as long as we could remember. It was something that was hard to deny, seeing this for the first time. Nothing had ever made the seizures go away before.

Seeing how this worked for our daughter, we knew we had to leave Pennsylvania, which was not equipped with any knowledge or quality products that could continue to help Marley. The decision was easy to make. I had to sell my deceased mother's home, which was in my family for 3 generations, packed up a u-Haul with everything we didn't sell, and we drove to Colorado to learn from and with the Realm of Caring. We only wanted to have the highest quality hemp products, and we wanted to be in a state that was willing to listen to alternatives to what Big Pharma may be compelled to push. We found that Colorado placed its constituents and their individual quality of life above what a political power may deem as what they found beneficial instead. It felt good to have backing from a state that would bear witness and support our rights as individuals to what is best for us and our children.

If this bill should move forward, I would find it quite disgusting and shameful that those that are so far-removed from what is really happening with medical marijuana would have any right to make changes to something they do not understand. Respectfully, if one of you would be in our position, I feel you would do the same as us. I encourage you all to reach out to any and all of us. Come into our homes for a day. Come have dinner. Let's talk.

We have watched our child go from a three year old that could not even get on all four extremities to crawl, to within a year of this treatment, she was taken off of some of the most powerful, debilitating and delaying types of medication. She wasn't having as many seizures. She was starting to crawl. She was starting to make eye-contact. She was starting to COME ALIVE and it was beautiful to see. She then started to walk. Then she started to run. Now she can hike and climb and smiles and giggles and plays and she gets to GROW UP because of this hemp plant.

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Not only did Marley get this amazing quality of life that we didn't even believe was possible, but so did I, her mom. Her mom, that was doing everything she could to get through the day because of having a broken spine, herniated discs all up and down her body, fibromyalgia, migraines, anxiety... the gamut was laid out on my history and physical exams and I still needed to be and do everything for Marley. I was on handfuls of pills from my doctors each day just to try to get through the day. I was overweight, I was tired, I was depressed, my liver was nearing failure from all of the medications and MY quality of life was suffering, too. Makes it hard to be as strong as I needed to be.

After moving to Colorado and seeing this beautiful progression of Marley using Medical Marijuana, I started to use hemp as well. With the support of my primary care physician, in three months, I was able to get off of 15 years of opiates, mental health medications that I did not think was EVER possible. I have not used any in seven years now. My quality of life is forever changed because of this plant and because of this beautiful State of Colorado.

I am forever grateful to this state and to its amazing humans that exist within its bounds. I only pray that our collective voices are heard, that our families, our friends, our constituents are HEARD.

Please see that this plant is the farthest thing from the problem. This is a solution for SO many people for a better quality of life.

Please don't take away our child.

Sincerely,

**Dena L. Wilson**  
**Proud Medical Marijuana Advocate**

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Sincerely,

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**Proud Medical Marijuana Advocate**

Senate Business, Labor, & Technology

05/02/2022 01:30 PM

SB22-205 Intoxicating Hemp & Tetrahydrocannabinol Products

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Lisa Williams  Amend  Self	<p>Dear Committee,</p> <p>In 2005 I was diagnosed with Stage III Lyme Disease. The disease was so advanced, I was not expected to live past the next 5 years. The Lyme bacteria, called Spirochetes, are hard to kill without doing harm to the patient. This is due to a neurotoxin- Quinolinic Acid which is released in the body when the Spirochetes are killed.</p> <p>This can damage the heart and brain. Often, the Lyme patient can die during treatment. Upon diagnosis, I had Alzheimer's symptoms. To put it mildly, I ceased functioning. In the past 17 years, I have undergone over ten protocols, all which helped save my life and/or keep me alive but the treatments were utterly grueling. I do not have words in any language to adequately describe the physical pain I went through. I was not living a quality life whatsoever. I was merely existing.</p> <p>Enter Charlotte's Web CBD Oil in 2016. Here's what happened when I began taking it:</p> <p>I stopped having tremors and seizures.</p> <p>My thinking became clearer.</p> <p>Inflammation went down within a month.</p> <p>I was able to drive again.</p> <p>I began to be more active.</p> <p>I have some permanent damage due to Lyme, but I'm alive! CBD oil gave me my life back! I still use it because if I don't, the Lyme Spirochetes can multiply again, even if there's only one of them left. Upon diagnoses, Lyme was in every part of my body. It's impossible to kill every Spirochete because they multiply quickly. The use of CDB, keeps the bacteria level low enough for me to keep on living.</p> <p>Please consider people like me all across the USA who depend on this for their very lives. CBD kills Lyme Spirochetes but it also lowers inflammation at the same time, so treatment is tolerable.</p> <p>I ask you to also keep in mind the many, many children in the USA who need this medicine for their lives as well.</p>

	<p>Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope I can count on you to do the right thing.</p> <p>Kind regards, Lisa Williams</p>
<p>James Reil Amend WOH Consulting</p>	<p>I stand in opposition to the bill language as it currently reads. I support the ammendment language, specifically to encourage the formation of a "task force" committee. This is imperative to better understand the potential implications of the passing of this bill to not only the Hemp industry but many consumers as a whole.</p> <p>I do not feel that stakeholders (those whom are most affected by these proposed regulations) have been adequately informed, nor given appropriate opportunity to understand, question, and advise on the rules that are sought to be implemented here. The bill as it stands will be a major detriment to much, if not most, of the Hemp industry in Colorado. It is difficult to even quantify how drastically this bill will effect hemp business in a negative way.</p> <p>I believe I speak for a majority of stakeholders when I say, we need to better review and severely ammend the language of this bill.</p>
<p>Amy Hartley Against Self</p>	<p>My daughter has Ehlers Danlos syndrome, autism, dysautonomia, and solar urticaria to name a few. The CBD and THC have both given her a better quality of life as we have used it for her pain and to help her sleep at night. She lives in constant pain and this combination makes life a little easier for her. It also doesn't give the side effects as many of the pharmaceuticals do and she's been on both benzodiazepines and narcotics in her 16 years of life and both have some nasty side effects such as feeling groggy and not being able to function or enjoy anything, and homicidal and suicidal thoughts. Without having the access to CBD and THC her quality of life would go to shit and she wouldn't be able to function with the pain with or without pharmaceuticals. Thank you for listening.</p>
<p>Jennifer Inman Against Self</p>	<p>May 2, 2022. CO</p> <p>Mr. Chair, Mr.Vice Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for your time today. My name is Jenny Inman, I am speaking for my son, Lukas, age 23. I oppose the bill today and support the strike ammendment put forth by the hemp industry, because of what it means to my son's quality of life. CBD cut my son's seizures by 40%. And that has been the only sustainable treatment for him. My son cannot take a lot of pharmaceuticals or strictly THC, as they aggravate his epilepsy and autism. CBD has been the primary</p>

	<p>difference between my son staying at home versus attending school, day program and hopefully one day, employment. As parents and adults in Colorado, we all want our kids to grow to be productive members of society. If you take away access to CBD, you are taking away my child's future, along with many others in the state. You need to have citizens vote on this before rushing legislation through without doing your due diligence. Keeping CBD legal here, will only help promote the CO state economy and keep jobs here. Colorado has an opportunity to be leaders in the hemp industry. It could have the respect for both growing our economy and saving patient lives. It would be a win/win for both our state's financial and our children's future. I ask that you do not take away Lukas' access to CBD.</p>
<p>Donovan Miller Amend Self</p>	<p>Thank you to the committee for allowing me to be heard today. My name is Donovan Miller. I represent myself in opposing the SB22-205 bill and I support the strike below amendment being proposed by the hemp industry.</p> <p>I was diagnosed in 2014 with an autoimmune disease called Myasthenia Gravis that limits my motility in muscle function and takes away from my quality of life. I have since undergone surgeries and an array of pharmaceuticals which have helped me but have also left me with long-term side effects.</p> <p>In 2019, I started using hemp products produced by a company called Charlotte's Web. The major benefits that these products have had on my health are almost miraculous. I have since been able to wean off of multiple harsh pharmaceutical drugs and have had no side effects at all from the hemp products.</p> <p>I NEED these products to stay available for the sake of my health. I cannot simply go to a local store in PA and purchase products of quality like I can from Charlotte's Web. I cannot get a medical marijuana card and go to a local dispensary for these products either because the products that are sold in the dispensaries are much more expensive, not of the same quality, and do not have health and wellness as their first priority.</p> <p>Again, I thank you for allowing me to be heard and I pray that righteousness will prevail in this courtroom today.</p>

<p>Morris Beegle</p> <p>Amend</p> <p>WAFBA / Colorado Hemp Company / NoCo Hemp Expo</p>	<p>To all involved, thank you for accepting my written testimony.</p> <p>First, I was taken aback by the original draft language of SB22-205. The language as written would destroy the entire Colorado Hemp industry, something many of us have spent years trying to make a model for the rest of the country. As is, this bill should be killed instead of the bill killing the hemp industry. That said, there have been many industry stakeholders working hard to amend the language and I support the Colorado Hemp Association language that I last reviewed, in particular stating the 2mg THC or substantially more, which seems to be a sticking point. The last thing we need to do is criminalize hemp producers and companies because of erroneous and arbitrary numbers not backed by science. The hemp industry has had to deal with .3% THC levels as the legal definition, based on a random unscientific number created by 1 guy from Canada in the 1970s, who readily admits that number is meaningless. Thus is the case for this 2mg THC limit that is supposedly intoxicating. This number is being pushed by marijuana industry special interests as they want control of cannabinoids and want to do everything possible to make it more difficult for the hemp industry.</p> <p>I just ask that the sponsors and committee members look at all of this through a common sense lens and consider the amended language submitted by the hemp industry stakeholder group.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Morris Beegle</p>
<p>Mary Frydenberg</p> <p>Against</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>My name is Mary Frydenberg, I and so many others depend on their CBD products to maintain and live a better quality of life! I have been on the Charlotte’s Web, the original formula since 2014 and the original formula is the only CBD product I take that gives me that quality of life! Mental and physical. I could list the benefits, but that list is long! Again! This is my main medical support as I have a gene variant (mutation) the does not allow me to take certain pharmaceuticals! Please! Do Not Take Our CBD Away!</p> <p>Thank You! Mary Frydenberg!</p>

<p>Gabrielle Gregory-Campbell</p> <p>Against</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Many of us opposes SB 22-205 in its current form. Working with stakeholders on the ground, we will be working to secure amendments to address critical problems in the bill, including:</p> <p>In what appears to be a drafting error, non-intoxicating hemp extract tinctures would be limited to 20 mg of THC per bottle, with criminal penalties and/or civil rights of action for violations. This would virtually wipe out full spectrum hemp tincture commerce.</p> <p>The bill would require Colorado CBD manufacturers to immediately destroy much of their stock of non-intoxicating full-spectrum products that exceed the 20 mg THC package cap (including tinctures, caplets, gummies, etc.) , prohibiting them from selling these products to states where they are legal, and potentially imposing criminal and civil penalties on their storage and distribution.</p> <p>In determining whether future cannabinoid products are intoxicating, the law would not require a scientific analysis and could lead to improperly classifying some novel non-intoxicating compounds as adult-use cannabis.</p> <p>The legislation does not provide a certain path to protect the retail sale of CBN products that are demonstrably non-intoxicating. Protections for non-intoxicating products are limited to CBD, CBG and CBC (and acids), stifling innovation.</p> <p>There would be no grace period whereby retailers could sell non-intoxicating products that are packaged legally as of today, but would fall outside the new limits. There are also no safe harbors for manufacturers handling in-process or bulk ingredients. This would require small businesses to immediately destroy non-intoxicating products that complied with the rules when they were manufactured, or face possible criminal penalties.</p> <p>While the bill provides no protections for Colorado-based companies that sell full-spectrum products nationwide, it does not meaningfully address the fundamental problem of out-of-state companies selling intoxicating products under the guise of hemp online into the state. This exacerbates an already uneven playing field.</p>
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	<p>Worse yet, we are hearing that some cannabis advocates are pushing for even more restrictive THC mg limits which could result in eliminating all broad and full-spectrum hemp products from the retail marketplace.</p>
<p>Kirk Goble Amend Self</p>	<p>The hemp industry in Colorado has been a leader in the development of high quality hemp derived products. The emergence of concern for regulation of Delta-8 THC needs to be appropriately addressed.</p> <p>I support regulation of intoxicating substances for adults over 21 years of age. All of the non-intoxicating uses for hemp derived products must be protected and supported for the industry to thrive and reach its full potential.</p> <p>As the bill is currently drafted, a majority of cannabinoid production would be placed under the purview of the Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division, and that would essentially allow only licensed marijuana companies to produce any kind of cannabinoid-based product, whether CBD or others.</p> <p>I oppose the bill as written and ask that the hemp industry stakeholders' input and concerns be taken into consideration for appropriate amendments to protect the hemp industry in Colorado.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Stephanie Fokas Amend Self</p>	<p>Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony. My name is Stephanie Fokas, and I represent myself/my child. I oppose the bill in its original form and support the strike below amendment being proposed by the hemp industry.</p> <p>My son, Reagan, suffered his first seizure in 2012 when he was four years old. He had brain surgery merely six weeks after his initial seizure. Although seizure-free for almost a year and a half after his surgery, his seizures came back with a vengeance about 16 months later. Every pharmaceutical medication that he had tried both pre-surgery and post-surgery was not effective in treating his specific type of epilepsy. He started using a Colorado hemp-based product in January 2014 and was seizure-free after just four months. He has continued using this product for the last 9 years, with no seizures, no side effects, and no need for pharmaceutical drugs that would inhibit his ability to learn, play, and grow.</p> <p>Our family supports the amendment language that was drafted by the hemp industry. It protects the products that our family relies upon. It</p>

	<p>secures our access to those products that ensure that our son has the best life possible.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Elizabeth Cochrane Amend Self</p>	<p>My name is Liz Cochrane and I am the mother of a minor child who has battled leukemia only to end up with intractable epilepsy. My daughter Madeline and I moved to Colorado away from our family to seek treatment with CBD from hemp in 2013. This treatment has been life changing for her. It reduced her seizures by 85% immediately and was far less “intoxicating” than any seizure med she has had success with. She has greater quality of life and likely a higher life expectancy due to her response to CBD from hemp.</p> <p>The fact that others seek to skirt the law and find ways to market intoxicating products illegally should not be cause for ending access to non-intoxicating, highly tested and safely administered CBD from hemp. The quality and consistency of the hemp CBD products made in Colorado highly exceed those made anywhere else in the world. Please do not allow the greed of others to end legal production and marketing of the ONLY natural products that have ever helped my child. The rigorous standards of production and testing for the products she uses ONLY occur in our great state of Colorado. There are many vulnerable patients who should not be denied access to them.</p> <p>Thanks in advance for your consideration on this issue. I’m available by phone or email to testify further on the importance of the availability of these products.</p> <p>A very concerned mother, Liz Cochrane</p>
<p>Aaron Klepinger Amend Self</p>	<p>Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today through written testimony. My name is Aaron Klepinger. I represent my child Hunter Klepinger. I oppose the SB22-205 bill as originally written and support the strike below amendment proposed by the hemp industry.</p>

	<p>By age 8 in 2013 my son had tried about a dozen pharmaceutical seizure medications and none of them worked. Many of them had severe side effects like screaming all night or severe weight gain.</p> <p>In 2013 my son Hunter started taking Colorado grown cannabidiol low-THC hemp oil called Charlotte’s Web to help his seizure disorder. We lived in Colorado Springs at the time.</p> <p>The oil worked.</p> <p>After starting the oil my son’s seizures went from 27 minutes to under 5 minutes. He went from up to hundreds of seizures a day to most days having none.</p> <p>Hunter’s quality of life improved. That is what this is about. If he loses access to this treatment, he will needlessly suffer.</p> <p>Since 2013 we have continued giving our son Charlotte’s Web and continue having great seizure control. Simply put, if it isn’t broken, I don’t want to fix it by switching to another product and potentially losing the only treatment that has worked.</p> <p>Charlotte’s Web is an organically grown product carefully formulated to high standards with full lab testing. It is a superior product that we trust for our medically fragile and unpredictable child.</p> <p>We need Colorado grown hemp crafted with care by a kind and generous family who deeply cares for the people they serve out of faith and compassion.</p> <p>Please support the strike below amendment supported by the hemp industry for SB22-205 and lets keep the Colorado hemp industry thriving and providing people a better quality of life.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
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<p>William Billings Against Colorado Hemp Project</p>	<p>Good afternoon, what are you thinking on this bill?? Being in the hemp business since the beginning, you would destroy every hemp business in the state. We grow for food and fiber and do not sell any intoxicating materials. Or make scientifically derived cannabinoids.</p> <p>If you want to regulate intoxicating cannabinoids then do that on a separate bill, but please do not make all of our efforts for naught. Hemp is not intoxicating in its natural state and that includes cbd. You will destroy hemp in Colorado and there is so much good for everyone by using this plant from the planet to the people and animals.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>William Billings</p> <p>Colorado Hemp Project</p>
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**Written Testimony for SB22-205**  
**Intoxicating Hemp and Tetrahydrocannabinol Products**  
**Jennifer and Codi Mendenhall**  
**May 2, 2022**

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing my written testimony today.

My name is Jen Mendenhall. I am representing myself and my 15 year old daughter Codi. I oppose the bill in its original form and support the amendment being proposed by the hemp industry.

Codi had a traumatic birth injury resulting in Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy. Codi uses a power wheelchair, a communication device and a feeding tube for her nutrition. She is a vibrant teenager who is thriving in all aspects of her life. However, it wasn't always like that. Her seizures started at birth. Throughout the first 7 years of her life we tried nine different anti-epileptic medications and the Ketogenic diet. She experienced electrical status epilepticus of sleep(ESES), meaning she was having very dangerous sub clinical seizures during 94% of her sleep. She also had various forms of grand mal seizures. Because of seizing during most of her sleep, she was often too sleepy to consistently go to school or engage in many activities. The prescribed seizure medications were benzodiazepines and others that contributed to her sleepiness, lethargy and ability to focus. Picture if you will a thirty pound little girl wanting to have the same experiences as her peers but unable to because of her seizures and her seizure meds.

A miracle happened in May of 2015. Codi had her first dose of a hemp wellness product(HWP) grown by a local Colorado family run business, to help control seizures without any side effects. Within three days of starting the HWP, her grand mal seizures were controlled. A few months later her electroencephalogram(EEG) showed her ESES had dropped to 92% of her sleep. Six months later, below 90%. Two years later, the ESES was controlled!

Because of her hemp wellness product, Codi is now an active, engaged teenager who has many friends and attends school regularly. She is an avid skier with a few Colorado based Adaptive Sports Programs. She loves to swim, bike, listen to

music, paint, write stories and of course go shopping. She did a TEDx talk in 2020 to advocate for assistive technology. She is a member of the Colorado Assertive Technology Coalition. She advocates for herself and others to bring awareness about living with a disability.

Codi's quality of life was most definitely enhanced by the use of a HWP. We have used the same HWP product for seven years. We are confident in how it is grown and tested. We know she is getting a safe, non-intoxicating, local product. We will continue to purchase this product directly from the same business we started with seven years ago.

Codi's life would be directly affected in a dangerous, possibly life threatening manner if she was to be denied access to the HWP after having had so much success with to control her seizures. If her seizures returned in the capacity they were, she would most defiantly need to be home schooled at the cost of our school district. Her Medicaid medication costs would increase due to the need for additional pharmaceuticals. Currently, Codi is on track to graduate from high school in three years and will become an employed, productive, tax paying member of society. If she were denied access to her HWP, it's possible she would need additional, more costly care as an adult.

Our story is just one store of thousands in her situation. Hemp Wellness Products have given relief and improved quality of so many individuals and families in Colorado. Those who benefit from HWP improve life for all in Colorado by living their own best lives! We support Colorado businesses, our unique Colorado lifestyle that is open and inclusive for all! We support our Colorado Government and the ability of our Legislators to make the best decisions to support All Coloradans! We strongly encourage the passage of the proposed amendment to SB22-250.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mendenhall – Mom, Registered Voter and Disability Advocate

970-216-7771

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Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present my written testimony to you today. My name is Cindy Mitchell, I represent myself, my husband, and our adult dependent son. We oppose the bill in its original form and support the strike below amendment being proposed by the hemp industry.

My husband Tom and I have been married almost 37 years, our 34 year old son has epilepsy. His first tonic clonic seizure occurred when he was only 2 years old. Over those years we have dealt with many seizures and many anti epilepsy drugs in both monotherapy and polytherapy settings. As you can imagine the frequent seizures came with consequences. So, we chased after seizure control with with multiple pharmaceuticals to no avail and with some horrendous side effects including—serious life threatening rashes, exacerbation of seizures, gastrointestinal disturbance, 8 straight hours of hiccups, mood changes with talks of death/dying, anhidrosis, hyperthermia, loss of self control and self regulation of behavior, autonomic dysfunction, extreme exhaustion, and more. Over the years, both the seizures and pharmaceutical side effects negatively impacted his quality of life.

We continued to try other options in an attempt to gain control of our son's seizures or at least lessen the frequency and the impact of the seizures and anti epilepsy drugs on his life/our life. We tried restrictive dietary treatments for epilepsy, acupuncture, massage, cranial sacral

therapy, integrated care through a nutritional biomedicine approach, allergy testing and treatment, and had a vagus nerve stimulator surgically implanted. None of those options controlled our son's seizures, some had their own side effects. Our son has never been able to be gainfully employed, he has never been eligible to have a driver's license, he completed much of his high school course work on home hospital study (off campus), and he had to stop attending college after only a few months due to status seizures and the cognitive decline from seizures and pharmaceutical side effects.

In 2011, we started researching hemp and stories started appearing in the media about children with epilepsy that were being given hemp by their parents and seeing quality of life improvements and gains in their overall wellness and/or functioning. This caught our attention as it provided some hope that we still had options, not yet tried, that might benefit our son. There is no stone left unturned when parents are trying to help their child. In 2012, we learned from genetic testing that our son has a pathogenic SCN1A de novo mutation which places him on the Dravet Syndrome Spectrum—a rare and devastating epilepsy syndrome. Knowing that sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP) is a common cause of death in drug-resistant epilepsy and occurs at a high rate in individuals with Dravet Syndrome we make a concentrated effort to embrace and savor our 'here and now' moments. So, in 2012 and 2013 we started learning all we could about hemp, with hopes it would give our son and our

family the opportunity for improved quality of life/ wellness, and more joy filled moments. Our son, (for that matter all individuals) deserve access to hemp products if it might give him (them) a chance at an improved life.

Our concern and my reason for providing testimony today is because our son has been taking Charlotte's Web full spectrum hemp oil for 8 years and he HAS experienced improved wellness. Sadly, we never thought we would have to worry about access ever again, yet here we are... very worried that this bill as drafted would cause irreversible regression and harm to our son and many more children/families as it would incorrectly classify and cut off access to Charlotte's Web and/ or other beneficial (and non intoxicating) hemp products. During the 8 years our son has been on Charlotte's Web Original full spectrum hemp oil, under his epileptologist's care we were able to gradually reduce some of the pharmaceuticals he takes which led to a variety of gains and improvements. His speech fluency was one of the first major improvements we saw. He is still under our full time care and supervision and he still has seizures but he is enjoying his life! He is a remote student at College of Adaptive Arts and currently taking three courses (Earth Science, Spanish, and Chair Yoga). He works out with a personal trainer 3 times a week. He is a big time baseball fan. He loves watching classic movies. The last 3 years he's demonstrated a steadily increasing love of all things native plants, ecosystems, and pollinators—his favorites are native bees (especially the male Valley

Carpenter Bee, *Xylocopa varipuncta*, aka Teddy Bear Bee) and hummingbirds. We worry what kind of health/function/quality of life tailspin losing full spectrum hemp access would cause our son and all the others who have come to rely on these products. These hemp products do not belong restricted within the marijuana industry and in the highly taxed sales system where the main consumers are recreational users. Please listen to our story and hear our cry—  
We oppose the bill in its original form and support the strike below amendment being proposed by the hemp industry!

Thank you,  
Cindy Mitchell