



Support HB16-1398 - Respite Care Task Force Recommendations

Title: CONCERNING THE RESPITE CARE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE FUNDING NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Sponsor: Rep. Young, Rep. Landgraf

Background:

- There are more than 843,000 family caregivers in Colorado. Respite care, a break from the daily responsibilities that constant caregiving requires, is a necessary service for families. Respite care reduces stress, improves overall health and wellbeing, strengthens families and helps prevent abuse and neglect.
- HB15-1233 created the statewide Respite Care Task Force to study the supply and demand with regard to respite care services in Colorado. The Respite Care Task Force consisted of professionals and family caregivers, representing the lifespan and disability spectrum, living throughout Colorado.
- The Respite Care Task Force submitted its recommendations to the legislature in January 2016.

What the Bill Does:

- HB16-1398 requires the Colorado Department of Human Services to select and contract with an entity to implement the recommendations of the Respite Care Task Force.
- The recommendations that would be implemented include: conducting a cost-benefit analysis of respite care; increasing training opportunities for professionals and family caregivers; conducting a statewide outreach campaign to educate Coloradans about the importance of respite care and how to access it; and collaborating with state departments to streamline respite care regulations thereby, increasing service accessibility.

Reasons to Support:

- The result of a study may show the cost of respite to Colorado. In 2011, AARP estimated Colorado's family caregivers provide 551 million hours of unpaid care annually, valued at \$6.6 billion. Colorado has one of the fastest growing aging populations, therefore providing support to older adults in their efforts to age in place through the Respite Care Task Force recommendations reduces costs to the State.
- Respite care is not traditional babysitting. Caregivers need appropriate training to care for individuals with special health care needs. Currently, training options for respite care providers in Colorado are very limited.
- The creation of an outreach campaign will allow professionals and family caregivers to find information on where to find respite care, how to access it, and what it will cover.
- Streamlining the state regulations will allow for funding and services to be directed towards those who need respite care and reduce the burden of unnecessary compliance.
- HB16-1398 will address the many barriers families face when trying to access services, and strengthen Colorado's families and the caregiver resource network that supports these families.

Family Caregiver Testimonials

"I have a 15 year sweet boy with multiple disabilities (from autism to epilepsy and lots more...). The respite program we joined is the most amazing place I have ever encountered! I don't know how they do it, but their staff (every last one of them) is so perfect. They always make my son feel so welcomed and comfortable. He is always happy there! **I would not be able to live without their support!!!** I am able to work and grocery shop (yes, the necessities in life) due to their support!"

- Lisa - Monument, community recreation program

"When you have a child with a disability, there are so many different challenges to face. School, parenting, health issues, day-to-day care and many other things stack up and can make life overwhelming at times. The respite program became available to my family at a time when the list of challenges seemed overwhelming. They took one item, my daughter's after-school care, and turned it completely around. Instead of being another challenge in our lives – daycare has turned into a helping hand – affecting my daughter's home and school life in a positive way. She is less stressed, has less anxiety, and her needs are being perfectly met. **Respite care has really helped to turn life around** for her, and I cannot speak highly enough of the caring, dedicated staff that work so hard to ensure my daughter is not only cared for, but challenged to be a better person. Thank you for all of your love and support!"

- Daleth - Colorado Springs, community recreation program

"Our kids adore our respite program! Just today our son was having trouble complying at school. When he was reminded of respite this week, he turned himself around (not easy for an autistic guy), and finished his work! They never want to miss it! As for us, it is a cherished night of "couple time"! Our house all gets excited on the days leading up to Friday! **It is refreshing for the whole family.**"

- Amy - Lakewood, community recreational program

"I have two daughters with autism. Our oldest daughter is 7 and youngest is 4. My husband and I really appreciate being able to take our children to respite care. **It is nice to get a much needed break from caregiving.** Being parents of two special needs children can leave you hesitant to leave your children anywhere. After one visit we were hooked. Just knowing that our kids are happy and well taken care of makes it easy for us to bring them."

- Meagan - Colorado Springs, community recreation program

"Respite helped me know my mother wasn't home alone and gave her some **social interaction**. She is mentally able to visit with others, play cards, etc."

- Keri - Grand Junction, day program

"This respite program has been a godsend for us. We are so grateful that they have taken in our daughter. **She loves it.** The program has been a wonderful break from taking care of her. She used to cry when we dropped her off. Now she doesn't even say goodbye to us! 😊"

- Maria - Denver, community recreational program

“My son Cade lives part time with me, and part time with his mom. Respite allows me to juggle the demands of work and personal time, and without it I'm not sure how I'd manage. **It's impossible to understate the difference respite has made in our lives**--Cade included.”

- *Todd - Colorado Springs, community recreation program*

“This is the first time I have received respite care services. Our children need a break from us as much as we do from them. **We are happy to see each other and are rejuvenated from having a break.** It's good to have time to miss each other. **The respite we were granted was a lifesaver.** We have no family here and as a result, no support system. If I could afford respite I would use it. It's so nice to know that professionals that know our children are taking care of them so that we don't have to worry. Not just anyone can take care of our kids.”

- *Kerry, Colorado Springs, community recreational program*

“We are so incredibly thankful and would not know what we would do without such a program. It has given my husband and I time to spend together without worrying that she is not in a good environment. **Our daughter comes away so encouraged and happy.** It is an amazing program that allows her to be who she is and to be cared for in such a positive way.”

- *Rachel - Littleton, community recreational program*

“The gentleman running the respite program was awesome and I knew he was super qualified and enjoyed taking care of my son, who was so happy when he came home. **When I was away I didn't need to worry.** I could completely relax and enjoy the time off. It brought my husband and me closer together and **we felt recharged to better care for our son.**”

- *Rebecca - Colorado Springs, community recreational program*

“My daughter is starting to understand that she is different from other children and that is OK, because there are a lot of “different” children who also have special needs. This respite program is one of the only places where our daughter interacts with other children with disabilities. **Respite brings us all closer.** We can plan for the future and enjoy the present when we have time off from 24/7 caregiving.”

- *Michael - Centennial, community recreational program*

“We are relieved to have someone care for our child that understands his needs. Our provider is doing a fantastic job. We can leave our toddler in her care and not worry. Respite care is such a far-reaching benefit for a family like ours. We knew that having a child would be a challenge since we do not have extended family nearby. When we discovered that our child has special needs, we really didn't know how we were going to make it, but we are making it – one day at a time. And things are improving. **The service has saved our marriage.** We are so thankful.”

- *David - Silverthorne, in home respite care*



CHRONIC CARE COLLABORATIVE

Advocating for the one in four chronically ill Coloradans

April 13th, 2016

The Honorable Dianne Primavera
Chair, Public Health Care & Human Services

The Honorable Jonathan Singer
Vice-Chair, Public Health Care & Human Services

Dear Members of the House Public Health Care & Human Services Committee,

The Chronic Care Collaborative is made up of 34 different voluntary health organizations that advocate for the 1 in 4 Coloradans living with a chronic disease.

There are over 800,000 family caregivers in Colorado and respite care provides a break from the daily responsibilities that caregivers provide. Respite is a necessary service for caregivers to be able to take a 'break' and focus on their own health, personal matters, and general errands.

We ask for your support for HB16-1398 to implement the Respite Care Task Force recommendations to develop an effective infrastructure so that quality respite care can be accessed by Colorado families no matter where they live or what their level of need may be.

The recommendations create effective, efficient ways to provide respite for those Coloradans that may need it. Included in the recommendations are: creating a cost-benefit analysis of respite care, increasing training opportunities for professionals and family caregivers, conducting a statewide outreach campaign to educate Coloradans about the importance of respite and how to access it, and streamlining respite care regulations with state departments.

HB16-1398 will address the many barriers families face when trying to access respite services and will strengthen Colorado's families and the caregiver resource network that supports these families. Please support implementing the Respite Care Task Force recommendations.

Thank you, on behalf of the Chronic Care Collaborative,


Sharon O'Hara
303-698-5422

Alzheimer's Association, Colorado Chapter

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Council of the Blind

American Diabetes Association

American Heart Association

American Liver Foundation, Rocky Mountain Division

American Lung Association of Colorado

Arthritis Foundation Rocky Mountain Chapter

Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado

Can Do Multiple Sclerosis

Colorado AIDS Project

Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved

Colorado Gerontological Society

Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, Rocky Mountain Chapter

Easter Seals Colorado

Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado

Hep C Connection

Huntington's Disease Society of America, Rocky Mountain Chapter

Komen Colorado

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Rocky Mountain Chapter

Lupus Foundation of Colorado

March of Dimes, Colorado Chapter

Mental Health America of Colorado

Muscular Dystrophy Association

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Colorado

National Hemophilia Foundation, Colorado Chapter

National Kidney Foundation of Colorado, Montana and Wyoming

National MS Society, Colorado-Wyoming Chapter

National Stroke Association

Parkinson Association of the Rockies

Rocky Mountain MS Center

Rocky Mountain Stroke Center

Scleroderma Foundation, Rocky Mountain Chapter

THRIVE: The Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Initiative of Colorado

Colorado Respite Coalition Member Organizations

A Little Help	Club for Kids, Littleton	First Light Home Care
AARP Colorado	Coalition of Adoptive	Fletcher Miller School
Abundant Blessing and Care	Families	Goodwill Industries
Adams County Department	College Nannies and Tutors	Hawkeye Ranch Center for
of Social Service	Colorado Access	Autism
Adoption Exchange	Colorado Bluesky	HCP Larimer County
Advocacy Denver	Colorado Cross Disability	HCP Pueblo
Alamosa County Public	Coalition	Center
Health	Colorado Children's	Hilltop Community
All Heart Home Care	Campaign	Resources
Alzheimer's Association	Colorado Christian	Home Instead Senior Care
Amedisys, Inc.	University	Home Care, LLC
Anchor Center for the Blind	Colorado Dept. of Public	Human Services Network
Angels Abode	Health & Environment	Ideal Support Services
Angels of Colorado	Colorado Federation of	Imagine!
Arapahoe-Douglas Mental	Families	InnovAge
Health Network	Colorado Foundation	Institute for Life & Care
Arapahoe County DHS	Colorado HCPF	Invest in Kids
Arapahoe Douglas Mental	Colorado Post Adoption	Jewish Family Services
Health Network	Resource Center	JFK Partners
Arc of Adams County	CO State Unit on Aging	Joshua School
Arc of Arapahoe/Douglas	Community Connections	Kempe Center
Arc of Aurora	Community Living	Kid Connection
Arc of Colorado	Alternatives	Kids Mobility
Arc of Denver	Continuum of Colorado	Kidstown Center
Arc of Larimer County	COPIC	Maple Star
Arc Pikes Peak Region	Creative Perspectives	MCPN
Arc of Weld County	Daniels Fund	Megan's Place, LLC
ARCH National Respite	CO Dept of Human Services	Mesa County Health Dept.
Network	Developmental Disabilities	Mesothelioma Center
Assoc. for Community	Resource Center	Mid Tier Partners
Living	CO Developmental	Mile High Leaps and
Aurora Mental Health	Disabilities Council	Bounds
Autism Society of Colorado	Delta County HCP	Mile High United Way
Autism Speaks	Denver Health Department	Mt. St. Vincent School
Bailey's Place	Denver Public Schools	Mulligan and Company
Balfour Cherrywood	Denver YMCA	National MS Society – CO-
Barth Hotel Assisted Living	Developmental Pathways	WY Chapter
Beacon Youth & Family	Developing Minds Software	New Day
Center	DRCOG	Night Lights
Bear Creek Care and Rehab	Dungarvin Foster Care	Night Owls
Behavior Services of the	Easter Seals Colorado	Northeast Colorado HCP
Rockies	El Grupo Vida	North Metro Community
Blue Spruce Assisted Living	El Paso Public Health	Services
Boulder Autism Society	Elderhaus	NW Colorado Visiting Nurse
Boulder YWCA	Exceptional Kids	Association
Bright Star	Extreme Sports Camp	Para Institute
Camp Paha	Families of Exceptional	Paralyzed Vets of America
Care and Community	Learners	Partne
Catholic Charities	Family Tree	Parents Night Out
Chestor House	Family Voices	Parent 2 Parent
Cheyenne Village	Federation of Families	PASCO
Children's Hospital CO	Firefly Autism	Peak Parent Center

Colorado Respite Coalition Member Organizations

Pikes Peak Respite Services
PlayDate Behavioral
Interventions
Preferred Care at Home
Prevent Child Abuse
Colorado
Public Partnerships, LLC
Rascal Roundup
Red Rocks Community
College
Residential Solutions
Respite Care, Inc.
Roaring Fork Autism
Network
Rocky Mountain Down
Syndrome Association
Rocky Mountain Human
Services
Schlessman YMCA
Seniors' Resource Center
Special Kids Special Families
Special Olympics
Specialized Sitters
St. Luke's United Methodist
Church
Strategic Communications
Consulting Support Inc.
Strive
Summit County Health Dept
Teller Senior Coalition
The Colorado Trust
The Human Services
Network of Colorado
The Independence Center
The Resource Exchange
The Senior Hub
To The Rescue
Touching Hearts
Tri-County Health
Valley Life for All
Verified Volunteers
Village Respite Program
Visiting Angels
Volunteers of America
Warren Village
Washington County Dept.
of Human Services
Weld County Dept. of
Public Health Environment
Weld County HCP
Woodward Foundation for
Respite Care

Northern Colorado Regional Respite Coalition

Alta Services
Arc of Larimer County
Arc of Weld County
Back to Us
City of Greeley
Connections for
Independent Living
Disability Pride
Elder Garden
Elderhaus
Envision
Foothills Gateway
Spectrum Services
Volunteers of America
Weld County Dept
of Human Services

Southern Colorado Regional Respite Coalition

Arc of the Pikes Peak Region
Cheyenne Village
Discover Goodwill
EFMP Army
KPC Respite Center
Maternal Child Health EPC
National MS Society –
CO-WY Chapter
Pikes Peak Respite Services
PlayDate Behavioral
Interventions
Special Kids Special Families
The Resource Exchange

Western Slope Regional Respite Coalition

ADRC Mesa County
Colorado Cross Disability
Council
Family Voices Colorado
First Light Home Care
Mind Springs Health
Mosaic
Strive
Volunteers of America

Interested in joining or learning more?

www.coloradorespitecoalition.org

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RESPIRE CARE:

Support for those who care the most

THE FACTS

1 out of every 5 Coloradans live with a serious short- or long-term medical condition such as autism, chronic illness or mental health conditions.



They depend on help and support from more than



800,000 caregivers here in Colorado.

Respite care provides support and relief for family caregivers so they can:

- Attend to their own health needs
- Maintain responsibilities and employment
- Provide a meaningful and healthy life for those under their care

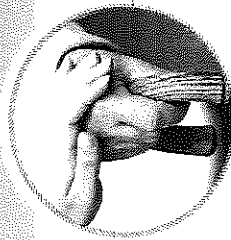
Given respite care's critical role to the health care system, its



\$6 billion in economic value¹

and its role in improving Coloradans lives, **it deserves more attention and support.**

A DEEPER DIVE INTO COLORADO'S RESPIRE CARE NETWORK.

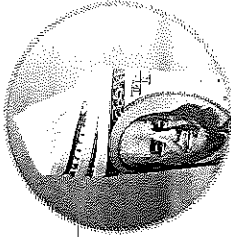


Why do we need a strong respite care network?

- Demonstrates cost savings for health providers, insurers and taxpayers
- Improves quality of life for Colorado's more than 800,000 caregivers
- Reduces emergency medical expenses for caregivers
- Strengthens and preserves family units

How we improve respite care in Colorado:

Systematic issues – like funding, access to care and red tape – keep Coloradans from the care they need. We can improve lives and reduce future burdens to taxpayers by:



- Conducting a return-on-investment study to demonstrate the economic impact of respite care
- Developing a statewide training system for providers
- Expanding the Colorado Respite Coalition's website to serve as a hub for respite care resources
- Developing a centralized community outreach and education program while leveraging existing resources
- Implementing a tax credit to reduce caregivers' out-of-pocket expenses
- Standardizing respite care options across all Medicaid waiver programs

¹ Statewide regulatory requirements for