

Thank you Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Alison Quinn-Beitscher. I am a nurse practitioner at Clinica Tepeyac, a community health center in Denver, Colorado. We are members of the Coalition for Immigrant Health. Center for Health Progress formed the Coalition in 2016 with the purpose of securing the safety and well-being of immigrants and their families across Colorado. This growing group, currently representing over 40 organizations and 100 individuals, works together toward universal access to health care by centering the needs and perspectives of immigrants. I am testifying today on behalf of Clinica Tepeyac and the Coalition for Immigrant Health in support of HB20-1409 CDPHE Inspections Of Penal Institutions.

I see many patients from immigrant families who come into our clinic for the treatment of general physical health issues. In our appointments together, patients sometimes grow tearful because they have family members who have recently been taken into detention. Obviously, this is trying on their physical and mental health and is made worse in a pandemic. Not only do our patients not know when they will be reunited with their families, they also fear that their relatives will become sick with COVID-19 while in detention. As a provider, it is difficult to treat patients' chronic health conditions when they are living in daily fear for the health and safety of their families. The priority is the well-being of loved ones. All other basic needs understandably fall by the way-side.

I became a provider because I believe health care is a basic human right. No matter who they are, everyone in our society deserves to have high quality access to health care and to be safe and free from harm. That is why I am asking you to please support HB20-1409 CDPHE Inspections of Penal Institutions. This is the least we can do to protect our immigrant community. Thank you for your consideration.