



**An Association of Substance Abuse Providers
Building Partnerships
Inspiring Change**

Dear House State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee Members,

The Colorado Providers Association (COPA) submits this testimony in support of HB20-1411. COPA's members include providers across the full spectrum of substance use disorder services, including prevention, early intervention, all types of treatment, and recovery service providers.

Our members have faced many struggles since the COVID-19 pandemic started, including:

- reduced revenue due to lower capacity from social distancing requirements
- the need to modify facilities, obtain PPE, and increase disinfecting protocols
- the implementation or expansion of telehealth services
- moving clinical and other staff to work remotely from home

At the same time, the public is facing illness of themselves or loved ones, isolation, loss of child care, job loss or changes, and temporary or complete business closures. These changes and stressors are increasing substance use and associated disorders, leading to a higher demand for services. All while state funding for substance use disorder services has declined.

HB1411 provides funding that is desperately needed and will be put to good use by providers around the state. COPA supports the bill in whole, but specifically supports:

- substance use disorder treatment and recovery providers, including for rural treatment
- screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment services and supports
- crisis services, including the crisis hotline that handles both mental health and SUD issues
- housing assistance, including recovery residences

COPA strongly supports HB20-1411 and sincerely thanks the sponsors for working with us and other stakeholders to identify and address behavioral health needs related to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Brad Sjostrom
President
Board of Directors