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Dear members of the CHASE Board,

My name is Audrey and I write to you as a Broomfield resident, mother of a child with medical needs, and a volunteer leader with Center for Health Progress..

I want to note my appreciation to HCPF for managing this enterprise and the hospital provider fees, and for taking the time to present the options and considerations for a state directed payment program at the upcoming October 22nd, 2024 public meeting.

I am submitting a written comment to express my concerns with the proposal, namely, the proposed makeup of the workgroup and lack of public accountability measures. It is a high priority to me to ensure that these public matching funds are serving the public, with transparency throughout the process. A workgroup that includes only HCPF and CHA members is a group that is willfully omitting the perspective of at least two crucial stakeholder groups - patients and direct service providers.

The working group must be intentional in including impacted individuals, advocates, and/or healthcare workers with on-the-ground expertise in care provision. This is the only way to ensure that the ideas developed are based in the reality of the current situation, and will actually provide a public benefit to patients - especially those who face barriers to accessing care. The single highest barrier to Coloradans is the high cost of care - especially to low-income and middle-income households. Patients avoid seeking care when they need it because of existing unpaid bills or because they fear an unpayable bill, meaning that their conditions are not treated appropriately and can often be exacerbated over time. These dollars absolutely must be tied to improvements in affordability and access so every Coloradan has the uncompromised ability to see a medical professional without fear when they are sick or injured.

We urge the CHASE Board, its working group, HCPF ,and all our collective stakeholders to listen to our concerns. We plan on participating in all public forums where this will be explored and discussed. We believe that medical providers in Colorado want the best for their patients and that together we can create a system where the quality of care is the highest priority for every person and agency involved in the healthcare system.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Audrey D. Johnson