

Dear members of the CHASE Board,

My name is Macon and I am a nurse and a member of the Healthcare Organizing Team at Center for Health Progress. As a nurse, a member of Center for Health Progress and a member of the larger Colorado community, I feel very passionate about ensuring the best healthcare is available and provided to my fellow Coloradans. I have seen firsthand how our world-class healthcare organizations can improve people's lives and truly help their communities. But I have also seen the way the system can leave out our most vulnerable populations, and fail to provide adequate care to those who need it most.

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 extremely important to me to ensure that these public matching funds are serving the public, with transparency throughout the process. Like I mentioned above, we need to prioritize care for the community as a whole, and the best way to do that is to include them at every step of the process. The working group must include representatives of all stakeholders: patients, bedside healthcare workers, community advocacy organizations and not just representatives of the large healthcare providers. This is an exciting opportunity to improve the way we deliver healthcare to everyone who needs it, and we must be able to fully explore innovations to make care accessible to all. As a nurse, it is important to me to care for my patients holistically. But as the social determinants of health framework tells us, poverty can contribute to disease burden. So it is a source of moral distress to provide care that could potentially harm someone's financial health.

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 want to be able to collaborate with the healthcare organizations in Colorado to provide affordable, accessible care to everyone, not have to fight with the most powerful entities in the state to help our shared communities.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Macon Fessenden