

Dear members of the CHASE Board,

My name is Matt Guerrieri, and I am a pediatrician at a small community practice in Denver and a Healthcare Organizing Team leader at Center for Health Progress (CHP).

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 that the process of distributing public matching funds is transparent and designed to incentivize improved access to high quality care for everyone. Too many decisions that impact the cost and accessibility of healthcare services are made without input from community members. As a physician, I have seen how such decisions ultimately make it harder for patients to get what they need. Minoritized groups such as Black and Brown folks, immigrants, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities are underrepresented among the hospital leaders, lobbyists, and government officials who have the most power to influence healthcare policy. Therefore, it is especially important to ensure that the voices of community members with diverse identities and health advocates are included in this work group.

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.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Matt Guerrieri