

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
BEFORE THE SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
ON THE
PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD**

March 17, 2021

Stacey Buzzbee, Owner

Let's Monkey Around Preschool Early Care & Education

Thank you, Madam Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lindsey Vigoda, and I am testifying on behalf of Stacy Buzbee the small business owner of Let's Monkey Around Preschool Early Care & Education in Colorado Springs. Unfortunately, Stacey sat in committee for over six hours today waiting her turn to testify, but as we all know, SBO are renaissance people and she needed to leave to take care of herself, her family, and her business. The words and story I am reading are hers and hers alone. Thank you for the opportunity for allowing me to testify on behalf of Stacey.

As both a small business owner and someone living with a pre-existing condition as lethal as cancer, my personal health comes with challenges of its own, which also affects my bottom line. I'm often debating whether I can afford the expensive prescription drugs that I need to survive. Not only that, but my daughter also has a pre-existing condition that, at times, requires life-saving medication that costs nearly \$500 a month—out of pocket.

With the cost of running a business and budgeting the health needs of my own family, I have put my own health at a greater risk, often being forced to substitute prescription drugs with over the counter medicine. Coloradans shouldn't have to choose between having financial stability and accessing prescription drugs. It is simply unacceptable for prescriptions—especially lifesaving ones—to be so high in cost, often coming at the expense of maintaining my family's health and my business' viability.

I believe that SB21-175 will help to get drug costs under control in Colorado, which would be critical for Coloradans with pre-existing conditions, who are also now concerned about their health amid a deadly global pandemic.

This will also help small businesses that are struggling to afford health insurance benefits and the rising cost of prescription drug coverage. A recent Small Business Majority poll found that 88% of small businesses say that drug costs are too high. What's more, 63% of small employers say the prescription drug market is in need of reform, and most small business owners agree that there is a lack of transparency around the process used to determine costs for such prescriptions.

I'm constantly facing a balancing act between protecting the health and safety of my family, my children that I care for, and my own health while sustaining my business, which is why I think we need a Prescription Drug Affordability Board. A Prescription Drug Affordability Board will ensure that small business owners like me can pay for fair and reasonable costs for some of the most expensive drugs.

I urge you to consider passing this legislation. This will help small business owners like me who are looking to strike a balance between financial stability and ensuring access to life-saving, affordable medication for our families and employees. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Thank you,

Stacy Buzzbee, Owner
Let's Monkey Around Preschool Early Care & Education