



**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD BEFORE THE HOUSE HEALTH & INSURANCE
COMMITTEE ON HB 23-1215: LIMITS ON HOSPITAL FACILITY FEES**

March 24, 2023
Lindsey Vigoda, Colorado Director
Small Business Majority

Thank you Chairwoman Daugherty and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lindsey Vigoda and I'm the Colorado Director for Small Business Majority, a small business organization with offices nationwide, including here in Colorado. Our mission is to empower America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. I am here to share our support for HB 23-1215 because it is a step forward to providing protections for Coloradans and small business owners from costs associated with abusive hospital facility fees.

[Recent research](#) estimates that 1 in 10 Coloradans do not think their healthcare costs are "very affordable" and approximately half say they have put off recommended medical procedures and treatments due to rising healthcare costs. This issue affects our entire healthcare system and economy because this means too many Coloradans are afraid to seek needed care, meaning they will suffer in silence and/or stop working altogether, further pushing people out of employment or out of business.

Today we're talking about an additional fee that many patients don't know about that is making healthcare costs even higher than they should be. Hospital facility fees come as a surprise on top of all the other medical costs associated with health services. Facility bills are becoming more prevalent, in part due to the merging and consolidation of hospital facilities happening across our state, and around the country. Although facility fees vary widely depending on the provider and procedure, they are driving up the cost of healthcare statewide, hitting small business owners and their employees in their wallets.

We know from our extensive research that healthcare costs are one of the biggest challenges facing our small business community. Coloradans and small business owners simply can't prepare for or anticipate how medical bills will be calculated, and these fees often are not covered by insurance providers. We hear from members of our network that even those seeking care through telehealth services are seeing facility fees added to their bills. These fees are particularly challenging for our state's more than 550,000 solo entrepreneurs, many of whom are low- or moderate-income individuals and are operating on thin margins.

The proposed legislation would curb facility fees, lower healthcare costs for small businesses and protect those who seek healthcare coverage. We look forward to continuing to work with the legislature to identify ways we can address burdensome healthcare costs in Colorado.

Your supportive decision today will make a difference in how our job creators, workers and families will thrive in the future.

Thank you,
Lindsey Vigoda
Colorado Director, Small Business Majority