



**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD BEFORE THE HOUSE HEALTH AND
INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

HB 23-1215: LIMITS ON HOSPITAL FACILITY FEES

March 24, 2023

Sandra J. Payne
Owner, Denver Concrete Vibrator

Thank you Chairwoman Daugherty and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sandra Payne. My husband Steve and I have owned Denver Concrete Vibrator, a construction equipment manufacturer, for 22 years. I appreciate the opportunity to share comments with you about the importance of legislation like HB 23-1215, which will make a difference in healthcare accessibility and affordability for Coloradans and for small businesses like mine that rely on healthy people to help keep the economy going.

I have never felt more disheartened by the state of the healthcare industry. The proposal you are discussing today will help Coloradans and small businesses by reining in the rampant costs of care and capping additional charges such as hospital facility fees.

Many Colorado families still cannot afford health insurance, and if they have insurance, it's a challenge to meet ever-increasing deductibles and copays. It's a struggle for many to keep their families fed. Being forced to choose between feeding your children and having a medical procedure is inhumane. Delays in medical care can have horrible consequences and cost much more than being proactive. But for so many there is no option, especially when unknown facility fees will be added to the already burdensome cost of care.

It's extremely important to recognize that mass hospital consolidations are costing Coloradans thousands of dollars. These consolidations are monopolizing the healthcare industry with no concern for the impact on people. A recent Denver Post article stated that nearly 70% of physicians' practices are now owned by larger entities, such as hospitals and private-equity firms. Those acquisitions have left Colorado citizens without options and have driven up the cost of care, leaving total control of "health" in the hands of a few. The state's largest hospitals are operating unchecked and are looking for ways to pad their bottom lines. It's time for state legislators to step in and act on behalf of Colorado's citizens.

Please support this bill to help make healthcare accessible and affordable for our communities across the state. Our small businesses will be grateful.

Sincerely,

Sandra J. Payne