

**Senate Health & Human Services**

**03/05/2026 01:30 PM**

**SB26-041 Consumer Protections Medical Care Entities**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Heidi Warner  For  themselves	<p>I am a Physician Assistant in the state of Colorado and I practiced primary care medicine for 27 years. I am providing written testimony in support of SB26-041.</p> <p>In recent years, most privately-owned primary care medical practices have been acquired by or have merged with huge insurance companies, private equity companies or large hospital systems. This trend has resulted in worsening working conditions for health care providers and worsening patient satisfaction as a result of: 1) decreased appointment time allotments which reduce the ability of health care providers to give excellent care, 2) increased costs to patients partly because of their need for multiple short visits when one longer visit could have sufficed, and 3) requirements for health care providers to spend their limited time with patients dealing with company documentation/data-mining/billing priorities at the expense of patient priorities.</p> <p>For the first 22 years of my PA career, I felt lucky to be able to provide excellent care to the many patients I served. When my smaller privately-owned company was acquired by the healthcare delivery arm of a huge, for-profit public company, my job satisfaction decreased to the point that I decided to retire very early rather than continue working in a situation that no longer allowed me to practice medicine in the way I felt my patients deserved. Since nearly all of my alternative employment options were in similar situations (having been acquired by large, for-profit companies), I did not see a viable path to return to practicing medicine in a way that allowed me time and support to give my patients the care they deserve.</p>

	<p>Colorado's must address the impact that rampant mergers and acquisitions of health care practices have on patients and health care providers. When health care providers are given less and less time with their patients and are forced to see more and more patients per day so that their employers can make more money for themselves and their shareholders, the quality of care those health care providers can give necessarily decreases and they become more and more dissatisfied with their work. This has resulted in huge numbers of health care providers either retiring early, decreasing the number of hours they work, or leaving the profession altogether. This, at a time when we are facing the crisis of not having enough primary care providers in our state or our country.</p> <p>I hope you will join me in supporting SB26-041.</p>
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