



AdvocacyDenver

Association for Community Living

The Arc of Adams County

The Arc Arapahoe, Douglas  
and Elbert Counties

The Arc of Aurora Colorado

The Arc of Colorado

The Arc of the Central Mountains

The Arc – Jefferson, Clear Creek  
& Gilpin Counties

The Arc of Larimer County

The Arc Mesa County

The Arc of Northeast Colorado

The Arc Pikes Peak Region

The Arc of Pueblo

The Arc of Southwest Colorado

The Arc of West Central

**TO:** Colorado Joint Budget Committee, [jbc.ga@coleg.gov](mailto:jbc.ga@coleg.gov)

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**Cc.** Sen. Lisa Frizell, [lisa.frizell.senate@coleg.gov](mailto:lisa.frizell.senate@coleg.gov)

**FROM:** The Colorado Arc Network

**DATE:** April 20, 2026

**TOPIC:** Request for Support: Long Bill amendments to mitigate harmful Medicaid-related cuts disproportionately impacting Coloradans with IDD

On behalf of The Colorado Arc Network, we urge your serious consideration and support of Senator Lisa Frizell's proposed amendments to the Long Bill. These changes are critical to addressing the disproportionate impact and burden that Medicaid-related cuts have placed on Coloradans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. Many of them already face significant caregiving demands, limited access to services, and years-long waitlists for essential supports. In light of these challenges, we welcome the proposed amendments to restore certain funding for family caregivers and to mitigate or avoid the implementation of a cap on the DD waiver.

We recognize the severity of Colorado's budget shortfall and we understand that difficult Medicaid decisions have been necessary. That said, the proposed changes to caregiver hours and DD waiver access are not abstract budget adjustments. They would have immediate and very real, life-altering consequences for children and adults with significant support needs, for parents and family caregivers already stretched beyond capacity, and for the community system that keeps people out of higher-cost institutional settings. Colorado's DD waiver waitlist is already painfully long, and slowing enrollment even further would only deepen the crisis for families who have already waited years for services.

We are especially concerned that Coloradans with IDD are being asked to absorb the consequences of system failures they did not create. Recent scrutiny of the Medicaid program has focused on improper payments, fraud concerns, and contract-management failures. Those oversight failures should be addressed forcefully and transparently. But the people who rely on Medicaid-funded disability services should not be the ones made to pay the price. The burden of correcting administrative and oversight problems should fall on systems, contracts, and agencies

responsible for those failures, not on people with disabilities who need services to live safely and with dignity in their communities.

Senator Frizell's amendments offer a more responsible path. By using available unutilized funds and preventing implementation of the soft cap and policies that would worsen the DD waiver waitlist, these amendments would protect some of the most vulnerable Coloradans from disproportionate harm while preserving the legislature's ability to continue addressing budget realities thoughtfully.

For the Colorado Arc Network, this is both a fiscal and moral issue. Colorado should not balance its budget by disproportionately shifting risk onto people with IDD, their families, and the providers who support them. We urge you to support Senator Frizell's amendments and reject budget solutions that weaken access to critical disability services and lengthen the path to care.

Thank you for your service and for your consideration of this urgent request.

In Solidarity,

The Colorado Arc Network

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