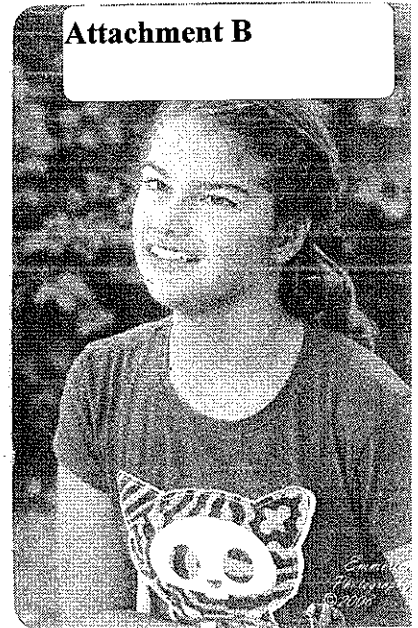


Irene Aguilar, M.D.
3071 South Irving Street
Denver, CO 80236
(303) 601-0955

January 22, 2009

TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

RE: Please Support House Bill 09-1048



Dear Representative Reisberg and members of the committee,

I apologize that my clinic schedule does not allow me to appear in person today to testify before you and request your support for this bill which I asked my state representative, Jeanne Labuda, to sponsor on behalf of people with disabilities. I write to you today as the mother of a child with developmental disabilities.

One of the surprising things I have found as the parent of a child with disabilities is that decisions are often "handed down" that have major impact on our lives without us having the opportunity to comment or provide significant input. This puts me in the position of needing to be reactive as opposed to proactive in working to better the life of my daughter and of others with disabilities. When poor decisions are made I do not mean to infer that there is mal intent; but a lack of knowledge or understanding of how a simple decision can impact our every day lives. Frequently, those making decisions believe they are acting in our best interests; unfortunately their lack of direct knowledge of our situation does not give them the expertise they need to appreciate the consequences of their decisions.

House Bill 09-1048 would ensure that policy decisions are informed by those with intimate knowledge of potential outcomes. Being present would ensure that our needs are understood and met as well as is possible. I ask that you support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Irene Aguilar