



## HOUSE BILL 16-1195

HB 16-1195, CONCERNING HOME MODIFICATION SERVICES IN MEDICAID HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WAIVERS.

### CLASP Strongly Supports

This much needed legislation will enhance the ability of seniors and people with disabilities to remain in their homes. The current situation of a "lifetime" cap on home modification services does not reflect the reality of Colorado's current rental and ownership housing markets.

Many Medicaid clients live in "affordable housing" or are using a housing choice voucher to pay rent. As more landlords leave the affordable housing market, Medicaid clients often times have to move to other rental options. If they have already used their lifetime limit on home modifications, they have great difficulty finding accessible housing that is actually accessible to them.

Having access to additional home modifications when the EBD and BI Waivers renew can mean the difference of living and contributing in the community or being forced to move to institutional care that is typically much more costly. Also, even if a Medicaid client does not have to move, their disability may require additional modifications so they can remain in their homes. This legislation is a common sense way to ensure people can remain living in the community.

One of the biggest problems with a lifetime limit is that it assumes that a person will never move and that their disability/age will not require additional modifications.

In my experience, people with disabilities constantly have to move for a variety of reasons.

I have had clients who had to move from their accessible home due to a fire in their complex. Landlords have left a HUD subsidy program. Landlords don't renew leases, so the unit can become a market rate unit. We all hear of the significant affordable housing shortage along the Front Range and in resort communities and those shortages affect the ability of seniors and persons with disabilities from finding affordable and accessible units.

HB 16-1195 reflects a commonsense recognition that life situations change over time and it is appropriate to adjust benefits accordingly.

**The Colorado Long-Term Service Assistance Providers (CLASP) is an association of long term Medicaid providers dedicated to providing quality services and supports for Medicaid recipients to stay in their homes rather than moving to an institutional setting.**

For CLASP

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