

# EXAMPLE OF TESTIMONY OR LETTER TO COMMITTEE HEARING ON LEGISLATION



You will see I address the main points of the bill, a personal attachment to the legislation, how I or the community I represent will be impacted by the change in law and data or facts to support my arguments.

Always start the letter or testimony by addressing the Chair by NAME, Ranking members, and all guests in attendance.

**RE: (House Bill 20-1006)  
January 24, 2020**

**Good morning Chair Singer, Ranking member, and all members of the committee,**

**My name is Rev. Dr. Jose Silva, and I am the Chief Executive Officer for the Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health. I come before you today in representation of over 300 members statewide who right now are providing mental health services, supports and are the reason I am here today, in support of HB20-1006: Creation of a statewide program of early childhood mental health consultation. I reside in House District 7 and had the distinct honor of being recognized on the house floor last year.**

**I come before you today in representation of my organization CoAIMH, in support of House Bill 20-1006.**

**This Bill matters for the following reasons:**

- In order to build a strong workforce, we must have supports in place for those that are working with our most vulnerable populations. The increase in the number of consultants will allow for less burnout but more importantly, ensure the services provided are done with the highest quality and the systems can be codified.**
- As an expert in restorative practices and social emotional regulation, which impacts the classroom emotional climate. This bill will serve as a starting point to help be a piece of the social factors that are impacting the punitive and deficit thinking that is laid upon students of color entering into the classroom.**
- This bill was written and edited with an equity lens, with the foresight to think about the workforce. To ensure that evaluation matters, so that this again, a variable in the development of the social systems needed for the whole child starting when the child is in the womb. Our children are impacted by trauma which affects their mental health as they develop from the time, they take their first breathe of fresh air.**

**In my short time left, I want to tell you all a story of two young men. Each born into a life of trauma and pain. One whose father was murdered before birth, found his mother's girlfriend dead from a drug overdose 4 days before his 4th birthday, was molested from the age of 4-6 and witnessed his best friend's murder at the age of 14.**

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The second young man in that story is named Diego and was a patient of Dr. Nadine Burke Harris the current Surgeon General for the state of California and author of "The Deepest Well." The first young man in this story is, me. My family didn't receive any mental health supports, it was crap shoot at life. I was lucky to have many mentors, sought out counseling and have worked an entire lifetime at becoming the man I am today.

This is why this House Bill 20-1006 should pass this committee because there are many more Diego's and Jose's in your districts. Let's make our stories the rule and not the exception. By supporting this bill, you affirm that you believe infant mental health matters.

Finally, this bill sets up a process to determine professional qualifications, job expectations, and guidance on ratios and outcomes for ECMHCs in the state program. It requires CDHS to create a statewide professional development system or plan that supports ECMHCs to meet expectations as defined in the state model. It will require the state to analyze implementation data and outcomes in order to identify areas for improvement, promote accountability and provide continuous quality improvement.

Thank you for your time and consideration. May you all have a Blessed day.

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