



March 20, 2023

As a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of care for patients in the prehospital environment, we want to ensure that everyone has access to quality affordable medical care. We are concerned that House Bill (HB) 23-1215 is going to significantly reduce access to medical care across the state. Therefore, the Board of Directors of the Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Physicians fully opposed to this legislation.

This bill seeks to ban hospitals from collecting facility fees for outpatient care. These fees provide for the vital staffing needed to care for patients in outpatient services such as cancer care, behavioral health, and others. This includes the nurses, technicians, housekeeping, dietary services, and all of the other ancillary personnel needed to operate outpatient services.

Without funding, many outpatient services would be forced to close their doors all across the state. In rural areas, this may lead to patients losing access to outpatient medical care in their community. This will directly affect emergency departments, which are open 24 hours a day - it will increase patient volume and make wait times longer, as well as hinder valuable outpatient follow-up care after acute visits. Behavioral health clinics would also be severely impacted by this legislation, leading to a worsening of the behavioral crisis in our state. The need for access to behavioral health services has never been higher, and we cannot afford to lose access to any of these vital services in our communities.

Furthermore, emergency medical services are in a state of crisis throughout the State of Colorado due to lack of funding, inability to staff, and long distances of transport. By effectively removing outpatient services through cutting facility funding, this bill will cause increased demand on the emergency services system, which is already at a breaking point.

Thank you for your consideration of opposing this House Bill - it is dangerous to our patients and communities. Please reach out with any ways we may assist or for any clarification.

Please vote NO on House Bill (HB) 23-1215.

National Association of EMS Physicians
Colorado Chapter
Board of Directors