



**Emily Roberts, Vice President, Colorado BioScience Association  
Opposition Testimony – SB21-175, Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board  
House Health & Insurance Committee  
May 19, 2021**

Thank you, Madam Chair and Members of the Committee. My name is Emily Roberts, I'm Vice President at the Colorado BioScience Association.

I am here in opposition to Senate Bill 175. While we share the goal of improving the affordability of medicines, we are concerned this bill will make it harder for the companies in our ecosystem to raise the capital they need to support research, development and commercialization of new therapies. We also fear that Colorado patients may not have access to medicines that have a state-mandated upper payment limit.

CBSA represents our state's dynamic and growing life sciences ecosystem with more than 720 companies, organizations, and research institutions. Our community develops new technologies and treatments that save and change lives around the world. Over the last year, we've seen our members do this at unprecedented speed, shifting their focus, staffing and resources from other projects to bring an end to this pandemic as fast as possible. Over 40 Colorado life sciences companies are leading in this global fight against COVID-19, developing and delivering tests, treatments, vaccines and technologies. This is possible because of increased collaboration and decades of investment in private sector innovation.

It is also a testament to the growth of our community over the past decade. Colorado's life sciences ecosystem has flourished in recent years, creating more than 32,000 high paying jobs and representing more than \$3 billion in annual payroll. The companies in our backyard are tackling some of the most critical issues facing patients today, but this job is not easy or free.

It's companies like a small biotech founded in 2006 that is developing a new class of cell-based therapies to fight solid cancer tumors and improve blood stem cell transplantation. While the company has reached significant milestones, they've been at this for 15 years, raised tens of millions of dollars, and are just entering phase I clinical trials.

Most members in our community are these small, emerging companies developing truly novel platforms. They are taking on extraordinary risk and significant investments to fund their R&D, with the hope one drug, or therapeutic protein will advance. Many of them have been working at this for 10, 15, even 20 years, and still don't have a product on the market.

It's these smaller companies that are responsible for the overwhelming majority of innovative products. Emerging biopharmaceutical companies account for over 70% of the total late-stage R&D pipeline. They rely heavily on venture capitalists and partnerships with larger companies to provide the massive amount of capital needed to fund their R&D and clinical work.

If states start imposing price controls for the few new drugs that actually make it to market, it will create uncertainty for investors and devastate the ability of these companies to raise money to fund these ventures.

Proposals like this bill target the most innovative medicines, disproportionately impacting treatments for diseases where there is high unmet need or where the science is the most challenging and the risk of failure is greatest.

We are at an incredible inflection point in science and technology that is bringing forth transformative treatments and even cures for cancer, infectious diseases, and a myriad of other conditions. We need these companies to keep going and succeed. To develop and deliver the next medical breakthroughs. To get us out of this pandemic and prepare us for the next one.

We need to reduce patients' out of pocket costs, while still preserving our biotech ecosystem. This bill does not achieve that goal.

I respectfully ask for your no vote on Senate Bill 175. Thank you.