



## ALLIANCE STATEMENT ON HOST HOME SAFETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For over 20 years, the host home model has proven to be extremely safe and effective for Coloradans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Colorado has been a leader among states in employing the host home model, a residential service option in which people with IDD and people who provide services – host home providers – live and create a life together. This model allows people with IDD and their host home providers to develop deep, trusting relationships that can last a lifetime, and many consider each other family. The vast majority of people accepting residential supports in Colorado live in host homes.

Alliance and its members have been deeply affected by recent stories of tragedy involving residents of host homes. As with any incident concerning the safety of people accepting disability supports, Alliance is taking time to reflect on existing policies and practices to ensure that Coloradans with IDD are as safe as possible as they pursue meaningful lives in their communities. As we do this work, we are mindful that regulations governing all disability services, including those provided by host homes, must thoughtfully balance safety concerns with the privacy, dignity, and independence of people with IDD while also ensuring adequate provider capacity to meet the demand for services.

The host home model allows people with IDD the opportunity to live in typical community homes and access very individualized supports, two important outcomes that are not as easy to achieve in other residential settings. The integrated nature of living in typical community homes allows people more opportunity to develop natural relationships with friends and neighbors who aren't paid to support them. The more of these natural relationships a person has, the safer they are. None of us is safer than when we are surrounded by family, friends, and significant others who can make sure that we are happy, healthy, and where we are supposed to be.

For all of us, life in the community comes with inherent risk. People with IDD, too, deserve the right to take reasonable risks in life and to have the support they need in order to do so. Very few of us would be willing to sacrifice privacy in our own homes for the sake of maximum safety. To say that people with IDD don't deserve the right to weigh their personal privacy rights with safety concerns would be to discriminate against them based on their disability. Therefore, as we examine the extensive regulations, monitoring, and oversight that already exist for residential supports, we must be cautious not to restrict the independence of people with IDD and relegate them to the limited opportunities that have oppressed them for so long.

Over the next few months, Alliance will be thoughtfully considering these aspects of responsibly regulated residential supports and identifying best practices. This will include review of state law, regulations, and guidance, provider practices, and federal requirements that people with IDD have access to live in the least restrictive environment. We will also consider the impact that additional regulation could have on recruiting and retaining enough high-quality host home providers to meet the demand for this popular and effective service model in Colorado.

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Alliance is a nonprofit, statewide association of Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Program Approved Services Agencies (PASAs) that is dedicated to strengthening services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Alliance is a statewide association of Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Program Approved Service Agencies (PASAs) that provide services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Alliance members serve over 10,000 individuals with IDD and employ 3,200 DSPs and case managers throughout Colorado.

[www.AllianceColorado.org](http://www.AllianceColorado.org)

