

House Judiciary
 02/09/2022 01:30 PM
 HB22-1082 Establish Fair Housing Unit Dept Of Law
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Aubrey Hasvold For Colorado Coalition for the Homeless</p>	<p>Members of the House Judiciary Committee:</p> <p>Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (the Coalition) is in strong support of HB22-1082. This bill creates an essential pathway for enforcing key renters’ protections. Historically, Colorado has been an unfriendly state for renters, particularly low-income renters who are at risk of homelessness. Over the last few years, the Colorado General Assembly has passed several meaningful bills to balance the relationship between landlords and tenants. Unfortunately, renters face barriers to enforcement of these laws because of financial instability and lack of access to legal aid. In fact, there is only one legal aid attorney for every 30,000 Coloradans living in poverty. Expanding the statutory list of state laws for which the attorney general may bring civil and criminal enforcement actions and establishing a fair housing unit within the department of law will give greater heft to laws that protect renters. The Coalition also urges further expansion of the list of state laws for which the attorney general may take enforcement action to include the full Rental Application Fairness Act, the Warranty of Habitability, and illegal lockouts/eviction. This bill is an opportunity to help renters who have faced illegal treatment find justice, and we hope its provisions will be made as robust as possible. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Elizabeth Peetz Amend COLORADO ASSN OF REALTORS</p>	<p>House Judiciary Committee re: HB 1082 2/9/22</p> <p>I’m Liz Peetz with the Colo Association of Realtors we have nearly 30,000 members statewide.</p> <p>We’re recommending an amend position to this introduced bill and our position will become official very soon pending our internal processes’ conclusion.</p> <p>We’re here today because we agree with the general direction of this bill related to application fees and the housing unit only if it does continue to be narrowly focused.</p> <p>Rather than opening up a floodplain of litigation and or create an unmanageable workflow that would consume every housing property transaction, and landlord tenant scenarios throughout Colorado, we’d like to see the AG jurisdiction related the fair housing unit for used for statewide or systemic issues.</p>



February 8, 2022

House Judiciary Committee
Colorado General Assembly

RE: HB22-1082 – Establish Fair Housing Unit Department of Law

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Kathy Smith, and I am a member of the League of Women Voters of Colorado's Legislative Action Committee. **I am writing in support of HB22-1082, on behalf of the League's Legislative Action Committee.**

The League is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Our membership spans the state of Colorado with 19 local leagues operating in several regions of the state.

The League supports policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family, and measures that ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. We support creating a Fair Housing Unit within the Department of Law. The League has supported prior legislation to protect the housing rights of immigrants, mobile home owners, and tenants, in particular SB20-224, HB19-1309, HB20-1196, HB20-1201, and SB21-173, and we are pleased that enforcement of these laws will be extended to the Department of Law. We hope that the housing statutes included under the DOL Fair Housing Unit will expand over time.

We urge the committee members to vote YES on HB22-1082. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Respectfully,
Kathy Smith, Volunteer Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of Colorado Legislative Action Committee
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	<p>But we are in open and collaborative conversations with the Department to find agreeable language that meets this concern around appropriate level of jurisdiction that is not so broad such as how we might define “critical” in the proposed amendment of the legislative declaration</p> <p>Thank you for your time, apologies for the confusion testimony in writing instead of remote.</p> <p>Liz Peetz</p>
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