

House Health & Insurance Committee
HB22-1079 Abolishing Abortion In Colorado
Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Honorable Chairperson Lontine and members of the Committee; my name is Ingrid Moore, from Longmont. I'm a concerned citizen speaking on my own behalf to **oppose** House Bill 22-1079.

I am not a lawyer, but even I can see some dangerous provisions in this bill. Not only could some of it be unconstitutional, but I believe it will cause many unforeseen consequences.

Section 6 (5) Enforcement of provisions. This appears to render the law exempt from legal challenges: *"ANY JUDGE OF THIS STATE WHO PURPORTS TO ENJOIN, STAY, OVERRULE, OR VOID ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPEACHMENT OR REMOVAL."*

Can the legislature just declare this? Isn't it illegal? It sounds very authoritarian!

Section 8 Applicability. *"...a crime is committed before the effective date of this act if any element of the crime occurs before the effective date."*

Can you make a law retroactive? This seems like it will create a can of worms! How will an element of the crime be defined, or discovered, or charged? I see many unforeseen consequences!

The bill states that this law could not be subject to any federal legislation or court rulings. Doesn't federal law pre-empt state law?

On a personal level, I am offended – and frightened - by this bill. Many of us do not hold to a belief system that agrees with the premise of this bill. We believe that the question of whether life begins at conception cannot be decided by science, religion, or the law. The attempts to impose that belief on the rest of us is a violation of privacy, an intrusion into the personal lives of women and their partners, and is probably illegal as well. I do not believe the state has a legal interest in pre-empting my rights over my own body.

I respectfully ask that the members of the committee vote NO on this bill.

My name is Dr. Michael Belmonte, and I'm a practicing Obstetrician/Gynecologist in Colorado. In my practice, I provide full-spectrum reproductive healthcare, including abortion care, to patients in Colorado, but also from surrounding states, and more recently to patients from across the country, particularly from Texas. I write in strong opposition to HB22-1047 and HB 22-1079. These bills not only attempt to cruelly ban abortion except in extremely limited circumstances, they subject providers serving their communities, like myself, to severe penalties, and are grounded solely in political ideology, not medicine or science.

Whether patients in Colorado are ready to build or create their families, already parenting, or focused on their education or career, all of them share something in common – they are making thoughtful, at times difficult, decisions about their health and well-being and they deserve high quality health care, including abortion care, regardless of who they are, their income, and regardless of where they live.

Abortion bans are cruel and fall most heavily on those who already face the most barriers to care due to systematic injustices. Black people, Indigenous people, communities of color, people who are immigrants, young people, LGBTQ+ people, as well as those living in geographically isolated areas would bear the brunt of HB22-1047 and 1079 at the expense of their dignity and at the expense of their health. Restrictions on abortion are rooted in white supremacy and further a shameful legacy of controlling the decision-making of people of color.

Abortion is health care, and it should not be singled out or banned. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), along with other medical societies, identifies abortion as an essential health care service that requires timely access to care. ACOG also explicitly recommends the repeal of legislation that imposes barriers to access and interferes with the patient-provider relationship, including abortion bans.

Abortion is extremely safe and placing bans on abortion care does not make it any safer. In fact, in 2018, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) published a comprehensive study affirming the safety record of abortion and pointed out that the biggest threat to patient safety is the litany of medically unnecessary abortion regulations that raise costs and delay procedures, ultimately putting patients' health at risk. They confirmed once again what physicians already know: bills like HB22-1047 and 1079 do nothing to protect people, and only serve to jeopardize the health and well-being of people who are pregnant.

Banning nearly all abortion care in Colorado will have far reaching consequences both deepening existing inequities and worsening health outcomes for pregnant people and people giving birth. For example, studies have shown that women who were denied abortion care are more likely to experience serious medical conditions, to remain in violent relationships, and to experience poverty. Research shows that states with more abortion restrictions are the same states with poorer maternal health outcomes. We also know that while most people will have healthy pregnancies, some will experience illnesses or conditions where pregnancy can cause serious problems or worsen existing health conditions. When abortion is made all but impossible to access, complicated health conditions can worsen and even result in death. It is

disingenuous for supporters of this bill to claim that they care about the health and well-being of pregnant people in Colorado and in the same breath attempt to ban access to abortion in nearly all circumstances.

It is essential for this Committee to recognize that physicians are already bound by standards of care, medical ethics, and the law. These bills make insulting assumptions about the professionalism of providers and disregards the extensive training we have undergone to provide the highest standards of medical care to the patients we serve. There are already many protections in place that dictate that I must provide the best care possible to all my patients, and there are already penalties for those who ignore these standards. Bills like HB22-1047 and 1079 only serve to further stigmatize abortion care and are an attempt to criminalize and intimidate health care professionals providing necessary, high-quality care to their communities.

Furthermore, the exceptions to the abortion ban regarding medical emergencies is wholly unworkable. I have provided care to many patients who likely would have died or had life altering complications if abortion were not an option. Whether it be the patient who came to the hospital with severe bleeding going unconscious before my eyes, the patient with an infection in her uterus from her bag of water being broken too early in pregnancy, or the patient whose heart is failing because it can't support her growing pregnancy; they all needed emergent abortion care to save their lives. And these are only patients from recent memory; my colleagues and I have saved many more lives because of our ability to provide abortion care.

I know that I would rightly fear criminal prosecution, and likely would not provide abortion care even in these circumstances; I know my colleagues throughout Colorado would feel similarly. Such an unclear standard will create a chilling effect among providers at the expense of the health and safety of Coloradans.

Should HB22-1047 and 1079 become law the ripple effects would be felt across the country. I have already seen the impacts of Texas' SB8, with a significant increase in patients traveling further and further to seek my care and the impact would be catastrophic for many parts of the country should these bills become law. It is unconscionable that Members of this Committee would willingly subject Coloradans to such detrimental impacts.

Members of this Committee have an opportunity to ensure law and policy is based in sound science and medical evidence. Under no circumstances should Colorado politicians attempt to limit access to abortion care. Together, we can achieve a future where equitable access to reproductive health care is available to every Coloradan.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB22-1047 and 1079.



February 22, 2022

The Honorable Susan Lontine
Chair
House Health and Insurance Committee
200 E Colfax, Room 307
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable David Ortiz
Vice Chair
House Health and Insurance Committee
200 E Colfax, Room 307
Denver, CO 80203

Catholics for Choice Testimony — A State of Crisis: Examining the Urgent Need to Protect and Expand Abortion Rights and Access in Colorado

Dear Chair Lontine, Vice Chair Ortiz, and members of the House Health and Insurance Committee,

On behalf of Catholics for Choice, I urge you to oppose HB22-1079 and HB22-1047 so that Coloradans may access the care they need to live full, healthy lives. Catholics for Choice serves as a voice for the majority of the over 70 million Catholics in the United States—including over 842,000 Catholics in Colorado, who support access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare services because of their faith, not in spite of it. Colorado Catholics agree with the majority of Americans who want healthcare decisions to be made by patients rather than politicians, according to their own consciences, and in consultation with medical professionals and whomever else they choose. All people are moral agents and must be allowed and encouraged to make decisions that are right for them and their families, according to their own beliefs and consciences. Bills like these that serve to make abortion care unavailable and inaccessible for Coloradans are unconscionable and obstruct one's ability to follow their consciences in matters of moral decision-making.

The proposals you are considering are extreme and morally bankrupt— HB22-1079 and HB22-1047 use misleading, inflammatory language in an attempt to advance a political agenda over sound science and medicine. Coloradans have the right to make their own conscience-based decisions, including decisions about whether or not to continue a pregnancy. Catholics believe deeply in the values of dignity, compassion, justice, and respect—all of which compel us to fight for reproductive health, rights, and justice for everyone. Curtailing self-determination and bodily autonomy is always wrong, but especially so when people's health and lives are at stake.

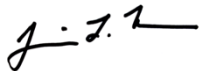
The role of individual conscience is at the core of the Catholic faith, and the public policy views of Catholics reflect this tradition. Catholics support policies that enable pregnant people to follow their consciences when deciding how best to build and care for their families and abhor policies such as these that place insurmountable barriers between pregnant people and the care they need. Ultimately, one in four abortion patients in this country is Catholic, and for many of them, access to equitable,

In Good Conscience

compassionate abortion care is a blessing. When people are denied abortion care, the consequences can be far-reaching. It is not the role of lawmakers to assign value to their constituents' individual choices or stymie their moral autonomy but rather to grant them the dignity and respect to follow their consciences and make the choices that are best for them, their health and their families.

If you have any questions, please contact Marlee Breakstone, State Policy Associate, at mbreakstone@catholicsforchoice.org.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. L. Manson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jamie L. Manson
President, Catholics for Choice

February 23, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Susan Lontine and Members of the Health and Insurance Committee

Re: Letter in Opposition to H.B. 1047 and H.B. 1079

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Health and Insurance Committee,

The Center for Reproductive Rights (“Center”) strongly opposes House Bill 1047 (“H.B. 1047”) and House Bill 1079 (“H.B. 1079”) and urges you to vote against these unconstitutional abortion bans.

The Center is a legal advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the right to access abortion and other reproductive health care services. For 30 years, the Center has successfully challenged restrictions on abortion throughout the United States. In 2020, the Center won an important abortion rights case, *June Medical Services v. Russo*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down burdensome abortion restrictions and upheld protections for abortion care. Currently, the Center is challenging Mississippi’s fifteen week ban in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, arguing that under settled law, the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Constitution prohibits a state from enacting a law that bans abortion prior to the point in pregnancy when a fetus is viable.

H.B. 1047 and H.B. 1079 stigmatize abortion and shame the Coloradans who access care by banning abortion before viability. The impact of these bills – like all abortion bans and restrictions – will fall hardest on Black, Indigenous, and people of color, people with disabilities, people in rural areas, young people, immigrants, and those having difficulty making ends meet. In striking down the Mississippi ban in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the district court was clear that the right to abortion is a matter of racial justice and gender equality, saying that ban is “closer to the old Mississippi” that was intent on controlling women’s bodies and with a history of forced sterilization of Black women.

H.B. 1047 and H.B. 1079 are unconstitutional abortion bans that violate nearly fifty years of Supreme Court precedent, established in *Roe v. Wade* and its progeny.¹ As the United States Supreme Court has emphasized, “viability marks the earliest point at which the State’s interest in

¹ E.g., *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt*, 136 S. Ct. 2292, 2324 (2016); *Gonzales v. Carhart*, 550 U.S. 124, 146 (2007); *Planned Parenthood of Se. Pennsylvania v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833, 879, 878, and 877 (1992); *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 163-64 (1973).

fetal life is constitutionally adequate to justify a legislative ban on nontherapeutic abortions.”² These bills criminalize abortion at the point of fertilization and are facially unconstitutional.

H.B. 1047 and H.B. 1079 do not provide an exception for when abortion is medically necessary to preserve a pregnant person’s health. An abortion ban that fails to include a comprehensive health exception is unconstitutional at any stage of pregnancy, even after viability, because it does not adequately allow abortion providers to exercise their medical judgment to protect a pregnant person’s health in all circumstances.

A public policy of forced pregnancy is not only unconstitutional but woefully out of touch with a sound majority of Coloradans. Voters across the state and across the political spectrum have rejected abortion bans on the ballot four times since 2008 – most recently in 2020 when nearly 60% of voters rejected a ban on abortion later in pregnancy. If the wellness of pregnant people and children is a concern for the state, policymakers’ time and effort would be better spent enacting policies that are known to support pregnant people and children, rather than enacting unconstitutional abortion restrictions that cause irreparable harm and disregard the will of Colorado voters.³

We urge you to reject H.B 1047 and H.B. 1079. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or would like further information. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lizzy Hinkley
State Legislative Counsel, State Policy and Advocacy
Center for Reproductive Rights
199 Water Street, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10038
lhinkley@reprorights.org

² *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. at 860, 870 (“We conclude the line should be drawn at viability, so that before that time the woman has a right to choose to terminate her pregnancy.”).

³ EVALUATING PRIORITIES, *Colorado*, <https://evaluatingpriorities.org/>.



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February 21, 2022

CORRECTED SUBMISSION

Re: Oppose HB22-1047, HB22-1079 and HB22-1079

Dear Members of the House Health and Insurance Committee:

The Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care is a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving health care for all Coloradans. We believe that health care is a human right which requires that access be without financial and other barriers. We support legislation that makes health care more just and more accessible, while also realizing that the entire health care system needs fundamental reform to make it truly universal.

We oppose HB22-1047, and HB22-1079 which claim to protect human life at conception by prohibiting abortions and making it a felony for health care providers to assist in a woman's right to choose, and HB22-1075, which demands that health care providers submit private data on induced abortions and penalize those who do not comply. These bills are blatant violations of the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution. They punish women for exercising their right of personal autonomy and unduly burden their right of access to reproductive services. As Justice Sotomayer recently wrote, such laws are "a brazen challenge to our federal structure...[that] ... echoes the philosophy of John C Calhoun, a virulent defender of the slaveholding South who insisted that States had the right to "veto" or "nullif[y]" any federal law with which they disagreed."

In addition, these laws undermine a woman's fundamental right to equality and thereby strengthen the privileges of men thus making women separate and unequal. No men are similarly punished for unwanted pregnancies though they are often the cause.

We urge you to vote against these bills.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Potter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Dear House Representatives,

I am writing in support of HB22-1079 to Abolish Abortion in Colorado.

Please consider the unborn babies that have no rights, have no voice and have no protection in this state. Please change your minds and provide protection for their innocent lives. They are fully human and created by God in the womb, yet they are allowed to be killed under our current laws. What other murder or crime is allowed by law? Would we listen to the excuses of women who kill their 2 year old children the way we listen to women who kill their babies in the womb? Women know they are given the precious privilege of being able to carry a baby in the womb and yet they are allowed by law to bring their own baby's life to an end. In the case of rape, do we punish the child for the crime of his father? This murder will not end unless our laws are changed and there is due process of law for taking the life of another human being. Please consider these precious innocent lives that you have the power to save.

Please fear God and hear what He says:

God says in the Bible, in Genesis 9:6:

“Whoever sheds man's blood,
By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God
He made man.”

God also says in the Bible, in Exodus 20:13, in the ten commandments:

“You shall not murder.”

God also says in Proverbs 6:16-19:

“There are six things which the LORD hates,
Yes, seven which are an **abomination** to Him:
Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
And hands that shed innocent blood,
A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that run rapidly to evil,
A false witness who utters lies,
And one who spreads strife among brothers.” (underline and bold added)

In the Bible, in Psalms 139:13-14, David speaks to God saying:

“For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.”

God creates a human being in the womb and He hates the shedding of innocent blood. Abortion is murder and against Creator God's Law. Please end this holocaust by voting in support of HB22-1079. I am praying that you will.

Sincerely,
Kristen Aucott
Wife, mother of 2
kabels@pacbell.net

House Health & Insurance
 02/23/2022 01:30 PM
 HB22-1079 Abolishing Abortion In Colorado
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Virginia Gebhart Against Self	<p>I'm disappointed to see that Representative Williams seeks to grant the State of Colorado the power to strip women of dominion over their own bodies. Would Representative Williams consent to being stripped of dominion over his own body? Of course he would not consent to such a thing. To suggest otherwise is unthinkable. So it is with women. It is unthinkable to suggest that the State of Colorado could be granted the power to force women to be stripped of dominion over their own bodies.</p> <p>Please vote no on this bill which would grant power to the State of Colorado to do the unthinkable, strip women of dominion over their own bodies. Please vote no.</p>
Alethea Wingert For Self	<p>We are in full support of Bill HB 22-1079 and respectfully ask that this committee vote to move this bill forward as it is written in defense of the most vulnerable and innocent human beings, the pre-born.</p> <p>We ask that you do this because of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The child in the womb is human. Science has verified this fact over and over. As such they must be protected by law. To not do so is to be complicit in murder. 2. Abortion is murder. The premeditated killing of another human being is a crime under the law and must be punished as such. 3. The role of magistrates such as yourselves is to protect citizens. This is a founding premise of our government- not to decide who is or is not worthy of that protection, nor is it to declare humanity on certain groups that meet certain criteria- you are elected to serve and protect, and the pre-born should be protected under this premise. You protect a child out of the womb; therefore, the same protection should be provided for a child within the womb. 4. Abortion should be illegal. You have the duty to ignore and even defy an opinion from the Supreme Court that is not law. Our original system of government, according to the Constitution, states that only Congress has the authority to make law. Therefore, Roe V Wade is not a law. It was a federal ruling based on the false premise that unborn/pre-born children are potential human beings. The overwhelming testimony of biological science states otherwise and so Roe must be ignored and defied by local government to protect all of its citizens.

	<p>5. Circumstances DO NOT dictate the humanity nor the lack of humanity a person has. The pre-born, no matter the circumstance of their conception, are human and deserve to be protected as such.</p> <p>Please do what is right under the law and what morality dictates and vote in favor of this bill to abolish abortion in our state.</p> <p>Sincerely, Doug and Alethea Wingert</p>
<p>Lori Engel For Self</p>	<p>Hello</p> <p>I know that you will be hearing testimony and voting on HB22-1079 to abolish abortion.</p> <p>I would like to ask you to please vote to abolish abortion in Colorado.</p> <p>Babies are humans and deserve basic human rights. Is there a difference between a one year person and a newly conceived person? A one year old is completely dependent on her mother just a person in the womb is completely dependent on her mother.</p> <p>Abortion is murder, we have laws prohibiting all types of murder, and certainly human infant murder is considered most horrific, unless the infant is unborn and unwanted, then it is celebrated. Imagine allowing a one year old child to be murdered because the mother is overwhelmed or doesn't want him.</p> <p>As local magistrates you have been granted authority to protect life. Abortion does not protect life it destroys it. It is imperative that as a magistrate you follow the constitution. Under the constitution the supreme court can not make laws, only Congress can do that, therefore Roe V Wade is not a law, it is a federal ruling based on the idea that unborn children are not human beings. There is overwhelming evidence from science that proves this idea to be false. We now have proof that life begins at conception, we know that from conception there is a human infant growing and developing, we know at 2 weeks post conception there is a heart beat, and we know that stopping a beating heart results in death. Willfully stopping a heart is called murder. Therefore it is clear that abortion is murder. I ask you to follow the science not the politics. I ask you to stand up for the most basic human right for the most vulnerable people. Please vote to abolish abortion in the state of CO.</p> <p>thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Margarita Nelson For Self</p>	<p>Abortion is a barbaric act against innocent members of our society. Please support HB-22-1079.</p>
<p>Barbara Tidd Against</p>	<p>I strongly oppose HB22-1079, which claims to protect human life at conception by prohibiting abortions and making it a felony for health</p>

<p>Self</p>	<p>care providers to assist in a woman's right to choose. Men have a right to choose. Why do propose in this bill that women not have a right to choose what happens within their own body?</p> <p>Instead, your focus needs to be on feeding the hungry and providing housing for the population that has been born. There are thousands of people in Colorado living hand to mouth, from paycheck to paycheck, living on the streets or unable to afford housing, and unable to afford health care, which is critical through one’s pregnancy if one chooses to but cannot get an abortion. How does allowing UNwanted pregnancies which increases the population help these crises?</p> <p>Put yourself in a woman’s shoes. How about women legislators passing laws restricting what YOU can do with your body and telling YOU that you must carry an unborn fetus in your body for 9 months, deliver that body, and then choose to raise that child for 18+ years or put it up for adoption? This all costs money and takes time, which many do not have because they’re working 2 or 3 jobs.</p> <p>What is the purpose of this Bill?</p> <p>Please withdraw this Bill.</p>
<p>Diana Rhodes Against Advocates for Youth</p>	<p>Advocates for Youth partners with young people and their adult allies to champion youth rights to bodily autonomy and build power to transform policies, programs and systems to secure sexual health and equity for all youth.</p> <p>Advocates for Youth understands that reproductive and sexual health and rights are inextricably tied to social justice and equity.</p> <p>Our organization has worked closely with partners and young people in Colorado for over a decade, supporting and ensuring that Coloradans have equitable access to the full range of necessary healthcare services, including reproductive care. We have seen the Colorado legislature continuously introduce dangerous and harmful anti-abortion measures and ballot initiatives, and we've also seen the citizens of Colorado continually defeat them.</p> <p>And 2022 is no different.</p> <p>HB1079 is the nefarious next generation of “Personhood abortion bans.” The bill would outlaw nearly all abortion procedures and attempts to supersede any federal law without regard to the opinion of the United States Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade and other Supreme Court decisions, past and future. It is bad health policy and out of touch with Colorado values. Coloradans have directly voted on abortion bans four times since 2008, soundly defeating every initiative.</p>

	Advocate for Youth vehemently opposes this measure because of its negative impact it would have on young people and all Coloradans.
Donna Grahmi For Self	We are aware that Dave Williams will bring up HB22-1079 tomorrow and strongly urge you to pass this bill. The sanctity of life from conception to death is of utmost importance and reflects the values of many of the constituents. Thank you.
Janet McDaniel For Self	Dear Representatives, Please SUPPORT HB22-1079 Abolishing Abortion In Colorado. The bill defines a "person" to include an unborn child at all stages of gestation, from fertilization to natural death, as it relates to a private right of action and current homicide and assault provisions. The bill declares that any existing state law relating to prenatal homicide or regulating abortion or abortion facilities is superseded to the extent it conflicts or is inconsistent with the provisions of the bill. The bill requires the state to enforce homicide and assault provisions without regard to the opinion of the United States supreme court in Roe v. Wade and other supreme court decisions, past and future. The bill authorizes the state to disregard any federal court decision that purports to enjoin or void this requirement and subjects a Colorado judge to impeachment or removal if the judge purports to enjoin, stay, overrule, or void the requirement. Please SUPPORT HB22-1079.
David Meek For Self	It IS Past Time 2 Stop killing babies in the Mother's womb! I ask CO 2 do that 20 yrs ago n the CO Senate Prayer! 6 Senators walked out! Made National News! Now! U know why CO has had Historic Fires, drought, & a Biblical Flood ever since!! Plus voting n immoral bills & sinful people! Almighty God is Not mocked! U will stand before Almighty God at any Moment & answer 2 HIM for Disobeying HIM & The Holy Bible!! USAF Veteran 66-70, England, Germany, & Thailand (Vietnam Veteran) Assemblies of God Church Pastor 47 yrs! I'm now a Chaplain for VFW, Lion's Club, & tractor club! Portray, n buckskins, r relative, Legendary Mt Man & Political Joe Meek, OR!! David Meek, Greeley, CO
Su Dill For Self	Abortion stops a beating heart and the victim has no "rights." The unborn child is a human being with a personality and should have every right to life as a post-born person has. There are gentler ways of handling an unwanted pregnancy, such as adoption.
Pauline Brookhaus For Self	Hello Honored Members of the Health and Insurance Committee, I know that you will be hearing testimony and voting on HB22-1079 to abolish abortion.

	<p>I would like to ask you to please vote in favor of ending the practice of abortion in our state.</p> <p>As duly elected Representatives, you have been granted the authority to protect life. Abortion does not protect life, it destroys it. It is imperative that as an elected Representative of the State of Colorado that you follow the constitution. Under the constitution the supreme court can not make laws, only Congress can do that. Therefore, Roe V Wade is not a law, it is only a federal ruling based on the idea that unborn children are not human beings.</p> <p>There is overwhelming evidence from science that proves this idea to be false. We now have proof that life begins at conception. We know that from conception there is a human infant growing and developing. We know at 2 weeks post conception, there is a heart beat. We know that stopping a beating heart results in death. Willfully stopping a heart is called murder. Therefore, it is clear that abortion is murder.</p> <p>I ask that you to follow the science not the politics. I ask that you stand up for the most basic of human rights for the most vulnerable people. Please vote to abolish abortion in the State of Colorado.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Pauline Brookhaus</p>
<p>Michelle Vogel For Self</p>	<p>VOTE YES on protecting babies in the womb. We all, at the very least, deserve the chance to take our first breath. Children are not to be thrown away. They are protected and should have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is only God's right to give life and take it away. Colorado started this evil, and I ask you to end it. Change your hearts and think of vulnerable children in the womb. Mothers have access to help all around our state, and this doesn't mean they aren't hurting or overwhelmed...but they shouldn't kill out of their own pain, and there are little women in the womb who deserve the chance to live also.</p> <p>Thank you for considering.</p> <p>Michelle Vogel</p>
<p>David Graham For Self</p>	<p>The sanctity of human life must be preserved - specifically, the life of ALL unborn human children. As a citizen of Colorado, I 100% support this bill to abolish all abortion in Colorado. Please allow this testimony to stand in support of Dave Williams and other House Representatives who have brought this bill forward.</p>
<p>Diane Borden For Self</p>	<p>I support HB22-1079. Abolishing Abortion In Colorado. It's declares that all stages of gestation is a person. We all start out that way. There is no other way to begin life. We are a person right from the beginning. If we are a person, then we deserve life.</p> <p>And there are many other options for a pregnancy other than abortion. For instance, adoption. I experienced this and was able to meet my adopted child after she was an adult. She had a wonderful life with her adopted parents. Meeting her was the most wonderful day of my life.</p>

	Please support this bill HB22-1079. Thank you.
Hannah Kent For Self	Women's rights do not supercede the right of a child to not have its life deliberately ended.

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Virginia Gebhart Against Self	<p>I'm disappointed to see that Representative Williams seeks to grant the State of Colorado the power to strip women of dominion over their own bodies. Would Representative Williams consent to being stripped of dominion over his own body? Of course he would not consent to such a thing. To suggest otherwise is unthinkable. So it is with women. It is unthinkable to suggest that the State of Colorado could be granted the power to force women to be stripped of dominion over their own bodies.</p> <p>Please vote no on this bill which would grant power to the State of Colorado to do the unthinkable, strip women of dominion over their own bodies. Please vote no.</p>
Alethea Wingert For Self	<p>We are in full support of Bill HB 22-1079 and respectfully ask that this committee vote to move this bill forward as it is written in defense of the most vulnerable and innocent human beings, the pre-born.</p> <p>We ask that you do this because of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The child in the womb is human. Science has verified this fact over and over. As such they must be protected by law. To not do so is to be complicit in murder. 2. Abortion is murder. The premeditated killing of another human being is a crime under the law and must be punished as such. 3. The role of magistrates such as yourselves is to protect citizens. This is a founding premise of our government- not to decide who is or is not worthy of that protection, nor is it to declare humanity on certain groups that meet certain criteria- you are elected to serve and protect, and the pre-born should be protected under this premise. You protect a child out of the womb; therefore, the same protection should be provided for a child within the womb. 4. Abortion should be illegal. You have the duty to ignore and even defy an opinion from the Supreme Court that is not law. Our original system of government, according to the Constitution, states that only Congress has the authority to make law. Therefore, Roe V Wade is not a law. It was a federal ruling based on the false premise that unborn/pre-born children are potential human beings. The overwhelming testimony of biological science states otherwise and so Roe must be ignored and defied by local government to protect all of its citizens.

	<p>5. Circumstances DO NOT dictate the humanity nor the lack of humanity a person has. The pre-born, no matter the circumstance of their conception, are human and deserve to be protected as such.</p> <p>Please do what is right under the law and what morality dictates and vote in favor of this bill to abolish abortion in our state.</p> <p>Sincerely, Doug and Alethea Wingert</p>
<p>Lori Engel For Self</p>	<p>Hello</p> <p>I know that you will be hearing testimony and voting on HB22-1079 to abolish abortion.</p> <p>I would like to ask you to please vote to abolish abortion in Colorado.</p> <p>Babies are humans and deserve basic human rights. Is there a difference between a one year person and a newly conceived person? A one year old is completely dependent on her mother just a person in the womb is completely dependent on her mother.</p> <p>Abortion is murder, we have laws prohibiting all types of murder, and certainly human infant murder is considered most horrific, unless the infant is unborn and unwanted, then it is celebrated. Imagine allowing a one year old child to be murdered because the mother is overwhelmed or doesn't want him.</p> <p>As local magistrates you have been granted authority to protect life. Abortion does not protect life it destroys it. It is imperative that as a magistrate you follow the constitution. Under the constitution the supreme court can not make laws, only Congress can do that, therefore Roe V Wade is not a law, it is a federal ruling based on the idea that unborn children are not human beings. There is overwhelming evidence from science that proves this idea to be false. We now have proof that life begins at conception, we know that from conception there is a human infant growing and developing, we know at 2 weeks post conception there is a heart beat, and we know that stopping a beating heart results in death. Willfully stopping a heart is called murder. Therefore it is clear that abortion is murder. I ask you to follow the science not the politics. I ask you to stand up for the most basic human right for the most vulnerable people. Please vote to abolish abortion in the state of CO.</p> <p>thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Margarita Nelson For Self</p>	<p>Abortion is a barbaric act against innocent members of our society. Please support HB-22-1079.</p>
<p>Barbara Tidd Against</p>	<p>I strongly oppose HB22-1079, which claims to protect human life at conception by prohibiting abortions and making it a felony for health</p>

<p>Self</p>	<p>care providers to assist in a woman's right to choose. Men have a right to choose. Why do propose in this bill that women not have a right to choose what happens within their own body?</p> <p>Instead, your focus needs to be on feeding the hungry and providing housing for the population that has been born. There are thousands of people in Colorado living hand to mouth, from paycheck to paycheck, living on the streets or unable to afford housing, and unable to afford health care, which is critical through one’s pregnancy if one chooses to but cannot get an abortion. How does allowing UNwanted pregnancies which increases the population help these crises?</p> <p>Put yourself in a woman’s shoes. How about women legislators passing laws restricting what YOU can do with your body and telling YOU that you must carry an unborn fetus in your body for 9 months, deliver that body, and then choose to raise that child for 18+ years or put it up for adoption? This all costs money and takes time, which many do not have because they’re working 2 or 3 jobs.</p> <p>What is the purpose of this Bill?</p> <p>Please withdraw this Bill.</p>
<p>Diana Rhodes Against Advocates for Youth</p>	<p>Advocates for Youth partners with young people and their adult allies to champion youth rights to bodily autonomy and build power to transform policies, programs and systems to secure sexual health and equity for all youth.</p> <p>Advocates for Youth understands that reproductive and sexual health and rights are inextricably tied to social justice and equity.</p> <p>Our organization has worked closely with partners and young people in Colorado for over a decade, supporting and ensuring that Coloradans have equitable access to the full range of necessary healthcare services, including reproductive care. We have seen the Colorado legislature continuously introduce dangerous and harmful anti-abortion measures and ballot initiatives, and we've also seen the citizens of Colorado continually defeat them.</p> <p>And 2022 is no different.</p> <p>HB1079 is the nefarious next generation of “Personhood abortion bans.” The bill would outlaw nearly all abortion procedures and attempts to supersede any federal law without regard to the opinion of the United States Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade and other Supreme Court decisions, past and future. It is bad health policy and out of touch with Colorado values. Coloradans have directly voted on abortion bans four times since 2008, soundly defeating every initiative.</p>

	Advocate for Youth vehemently opposes this measure because of its negative impact it would have on young people and all Coloradans.
Donna Grahmi For Self	We are aware that Dave Williams will bring up HB22-1079 tomorrow and strongly urge you to pass this bill. The sanctity of life from conception to death is of utmost importance and reflects the values of many of the constituents. Thank you.
Janet McDaniel For Self	Dear Representatives, Please SUPPORT HB22-1079 Abolishing Abortion In Colorado. The bill defines a "person" to include an unborn child at all stages of gestation, from fertilization to natural death, as it relates to a private right of action and current homicide and assault provisions. The bill declares that any existing state law relating to prenatal homicide or regulating abortion or abortion facilities is superseded to the extent it conflicts or is inconsistent with the provisions of the bill. The bill requires the state to enforce homicide and assault provisions without regard to the opinion of the United States supreme court in Roe v. Wade and other supreme court decisions, past and future. The bill authorizes the state to disregard any federal court decision that purports to enjoin or void this requirement and subjects a Colorado judge to impeachment or removal if the judge purports to enjoin, stay, overrule, or void the requirement. Please SUPPORT HB22-1079.
David Meek For Self	It IS Past Time 2 Stop killing babies in the Mother's womb! I ask CO 2 do that 20 yrs ago n the CO Senate Prayer! 6 Senators walked out! Made National News! Now! U know why CO has had Historic Fires, drought, & a Biblical Flood ever since!! Plus voting n immoral bills & sinful people! Almighty God is Not mocked! U will stand before Almighty God at any Moment & answer 2 HIM for Disobeying HIM & The Holy Bible!! USAF Veteran 66-70, England, Germany, & Thailand (Vietnam Veteran) Assemblies of God Church Pastor 47 yrs! I'm now a Chaplain for VFW, Lion's Club, & tractor club! Portray, n buckskins, r relative, Legendary Mt Man & Political Joe Meek, OR!! David Meek, Greeley, CO
Su Dill For Self	Abortion stops a beating heart and the victim has no "rights." The unborn child is a human being with a personality and should have every right to life as a post-born person has. There are gentler ways of handling an unwanted pregnancy, such as adoption.
Pauline Brookhaus For Self	Hello Honored Members of the Health and Insurance Committee, I know that you will be hearing testimony and voting on HB22-1079 to abolish abortion.

	<p>I would like to ask you to please vote in favor of ending the practice of abortion in our state.</p> <p>As duly elected Representatives, you have been granted the authority to protect life. Abortion does not protect life, it destroys it. It is imperative that as an elected Representative of the State of Colorado that you follow the constitution. Under the constitution the supreme court can not make laws, only Congress can do that. Therefore, Roe V Wade is not a law, it is only a federal ruling based on the idea that unborn children are not human beings.</p> <p>There is overwhelming evidence from science that proves this idea to be false. We now have proof that life begins at conception. We know that from conception there is a human infant growing and developing. We know at 2 weeks post conception, there is a heart beat. We know that stopping a beating heart results in death. Willfully stopping a heart is called murder. Therefore, it is clear that abortion is murder.</p> <p>I ask that you to follow the science not the politics. I ask that you stand up for the most basic of human rights for the most vulnerable people. Please vote to abolish abortion in the State of Colorado.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Pauline Brookhaus</p>
Michelle Vogel For Self	<p>VOTE YES on protecting babies in the womb. We all, at the very least, deserve the chance to take our first breath. Children are not to be thrown away. They are protected and should have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is only God's right to give life and take it away. Colorado started this evil, and I ask you to end it. Change your hearts and think of vulnerable children in the womb. Mothers have access to help all around our state, and this doesn't mean they aren't hurting or overwhelmed...but they shouldn't kill out of their own pain, and there are little women in the womb who deserve the chance to live also.</p> <p>Thank you for considering.</p> <p>Michelle Vogel</p>
David Graham For Self	<p>The sanctity of human life must be preserved - specifically, the life of ALL unborn human children. As a citizen of Colorado, I 100% support this bill to abolish all abortion in Colorado. Please allow this testimony to stand in support of Dave Williams and other House Representatives who have brought this bill forward.</p>
Diane Borden For Self	<p>I support HB22-1079. Abolishing Abortion In Colorado. It's declares that all stages of gestation is a person. We all start out that way. There is no other way to begin life. We are a person right from the beginning. If we are a person, then we deserve life.</p> <p>And there are many other options for a pregnancy other than abortion. For instance, adoption. I experienced this and was able to meet my adopted child after she was an adult. She had a wonderful life with her adopted parents. Meeting her was the most wonderful day of my life.</p>

	Please support this bill HB22-1079. Thank you.
Hannah Kent For Self	Women's rights do not supercede the right of a child to not have its life deliberately ended.



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202-588-5180
NWLC.ORG

February 18, 2022

House Health and Insurance Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: OPPOSE H.B. 22-1079 – Abortion Ban

Dear Members of the Health and Insurance Committee,

The National Women's Law Center (NWLC), based in Washington, D.C., is a nonpartisan, non-profit legal and advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement and protection of women's legal rights and opportunities. The Law Center is submitting comments in opposition to House Bill 22-1079.¹ We urge the Committee to stop this harmful and unconstitutional bill.

At the Law Center, we use the law in all its forms to change culture and drive solutions to the gender inequity that shapes our society, and to break down the barriers that harm all of us – especially those who face multiple forms of discrimination. We know that access to reproductive health care – including abortion – is vital to gender equity. And access to abortion is a key part of one's liberty, equality, and economic security. Everyone, no matter where they live or their financial means, has the right to access abortion when they need it, without government interference and with dignity and respect. As such, we strongly oppose attempts to put abortion care out of reach for many Coloradans, like House Bill 22-1079.

I. House Bill 22-1079 is an unconstitutional and harmful abortion ban.

For over forty-nine years, the U.S. Supreme Court has made it clear that the U.S. Constitution protects an individual's right to decide whether to have an abortion.² Beginning with *Roe v. Wade*³ the Supreme Court held that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects a woman's right to decide to have an abortion, and that the State cannot ban abortion prior to viability; and after viability, the State cannot ban abortion when it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the woman.⁴ The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed the central holding in *Roe v. Wade*. In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the Court adopted an undue burden test to determine whether a law creates a substantial obstacle to accessing abortion, but still made clear that "a State may not prohibit any woman from

¹ Co. H.B. 22-1079, Reg. Sess. 2022.

² See, e.g., *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 153 (1973); see also *Planned Parenthood of Cent. Mo. v. Danforth*, 428 U.S. 52, 72–73 (1976); *City of Akron v. Akron Ctr. for Reprod. Health, Inc.*, 462 U.S. 416, 432–33 (1983); *Hodgson v. Minnesota*, 497 U.S. 417, 434 (1990); *Planned Parenthood of Se. Pa. v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833, 878 (1992); *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, 136 S. Ct. 2292, 2318 (2016).

³ *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 166 (1973).

⁴ *Id.* at 163-165.

making the ultimate decision to terminate her pregnancy before viability.”⁵ This has been repeatedly reaffirmed by the Supreme Court, including as recently as 2020, in *June Medical Services v. Russo*.⁶ As of this writing, all states – Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Utah – that have attempted to enforce an abortion ban at conception, like H.B. 22-1079, have been stopped by court order.⁷

Not only is H.B. 22-1079 unconstitutional, it shows an appalling lack of concern for and understanding of the reality of people’s lives and decisions, and health. Pregnancy and childbirth pose serious health risks, driving crisis-level pregnancy-related mortality rates for Black women.⁸ Pregnant people should be able to get the care they need throughout a pregnancy, and in consultation with those they trust, such as a medical professional, without political interference.

II. Abortion care is necessary for gender equity, and H.B. 22-1079 would eliminate access to that care.

If House Bill 22-1079 becomes law, pregnant people seeking abortion care would have to travel out of state to reach an abortion provider. The direct travel costs and associated expenses – such as childcare, time off work, gas or other transportation expenses, and hotel costs⁹ - would, at a minimum, make it incredibly difficult to obtain an abortion. For some pregnant people, H.B. 22-1079 would force them to carry a pregnancy against their will, resulting in serious harms.

As the Supreme Court in *Casey* named: “The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives.”¹⁰ On the other hand, being forced to continue a pregnancy results in substantial economic, educational, and professional burdens. Such consequences are particularly detrimental to those who work in low-paid jobs or live in poverty, who are disproportionately people of color.

In addition to the serious implications for bodily autonomy and one’s health, forcing a person to carry a pregnancy to term can have long-term negative consequences with respect to their economic security, workforce participation, and educational opportunities. A study comparing people who terminated a pregnancy to those who wanted but were unable to obtain an abortion found that one year later people denied an abortion were less likely to be employed in a full-time job, and even four years after being denied, those that were denied were still more likely to be living below the federal poverty line.¹¹

⁵ *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833, 879 (1992).

⁶ 140 S. Ct. 2103, 2135 (2020).

⁷ GUTTMACHER INST., *State Bans on Abortion Throughout Pregnancy* (Jan. 1, 2022), <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/state-policies-later-abortions>.

⁸ See Brief of Amici Curiae Nat’l Women’s Law Ctr. et al. in Support of Respondents at 6-7, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Org.*, No. 19-1392, https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-1392/192909/20210920125441954_19-1392%20Thomas%20E%20Dobbs%20v%20Jackson%20Womens%20Health%20Brief%20of%20Amici%20in%20Support..pdf.

⁹ See Brief of Amici Curiae Nat’l Women’s Law Ctr. et al. in Support of Petitioners at 16-18, *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt*, 136 S. Ct. 2292 (2016) (No. 15-274), <https://nwlc.org/resources/45623-2/>.

¹⁰ *Casey*, 505 U.S. at 856.

¹¹ Women denied an abortion had almost four times greater odds of a household income below the federal poverty level and three times greater odds of being unemployed. *Turnaway Study*, BIXBY CENT. FOR GLOBAL REPROD. HEALTH, <https://www.ansirh.org/research/turnaway-study>; Diana Greene Foster, *Presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo: Socioeconomic Consequences of Abortion Compared to*

There was an increased likelihood that families didn't have enough money to pay for basic family necessities like food, housing and transportation if pregnant people were denied an abortion. Women unable to terminate unwanted pregnancies were more likely to stay in contact with violent partners, putting them and their children at greater risk than if they had received the abortion.¹² Women forced to carry a pregnancy to term may also face diminished earnings, interference with their career advancement, disruption of their education, and fewer resources for children they already have.¹³

In conclusion, it is clear that House Bill 22-1079 is unconstitutional and would harm pregnant people by banning nearly all abortion care. The decision about whether, when, or how to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions we make. When people can make decisions throughout a pregnancy that are best for their lives, families thrive and we build communities where each of us can participate with dignity. The Law Center urges the Health and Insurance Committee not to advance House Bill 22-1079, which violates people's basic humanity, their rights, and their freedom.

Sincerely,

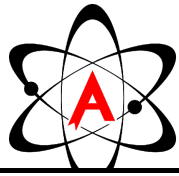


Heather Shumaker
Director of State Abortion Access
National Women's Law Center

Unwanted Birth (Oct. 30, 2012), <https://apha.confex.com/apha/140am/webprogram/Paper263858.html>; Diane Green Foster, et. al., *Socioeconomic Outcomes of Women Who Receive and Women Who Are Denied Wanting Abortions in the United States*, AM. PUB. HEALTH ASS'N. (March 2018), <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304247>.

¹² See *id.*

¹³ See Brief of Amici Curiae Nat'l Women's Law Ctr., *supra* note 10, at 36-37.



AMERICAN ATHEISTS

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Rep. Susan Lontine
Chair, House Health and Insurance Committee
Colorado State Capitol - Room HCR 0112
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203-1784

Re: OPPOSE HB 1047, 1075, and 1079, Letter of Opposition from American Atheists regarding legislation that inserts politicians' religious views in patients' medical care

Dear Chairperson Lontine and Members of the House Health and Insurance Committee:

As a Colorado resident and volunteer for American Atheists, which has more than 1,300 constituents in Colorado, I write in opposition to HB 1047, 1075, and 1079, controversial bills that put politicians between patients and the doctors who provide their care. Bills like these perpetuate myths and lies about people who have abortions and the doctors who care for them. They undermine medical care for women and violate their individual rights. We urge you to reject these harmful bills.

American Atheists is a national civil rights organization that works to achieve religious equality for all Americans by protecting what Thomas Jefferson called the "wall of separation" between government and religion created by the First Amendment. We strive to create an environment where atheists are accepted as members of our nation's communities and where casual bigotry against our community is seen as abhorrent and unacceptable. We promote understanding of atheists through education, outreach, and community-building, and work to end the stigma associated with being an atheist in America. As advocates for the health, safety, and well-being of all Americans, American Atheists objects to efforts to subordinate medical care to the religious beliefs of politicians and others.

Polls consistently show that more than 6 in 10 Americans support legal access to abortion.¹ In Colorado, the Pew Research Center reports that 59% of adults believe that abortion should be available in all or most cases.² Despite this widespread support, some Colorado lawmakers are attempting to advance measure to criminalize abortion providers, restrict or ban access to health care, and create a disturbing database to track information about women obtaining abortion care. These bills are not about protecting women's health and well-being. They are about imposing a religious agenda on everyone else.

¹ Pew Research Center. (2019). Public Opinion on Abortion, 1995-2019. Available at <https://www.pewforum.org/fact-sheet/public-opinion-on-abortion/>.

² Pew Research Center. (2020). Do state laws on abortion reflect public opinion? Available at <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/01/21/do-state-laws-on-abortion-reflect-public-opinion/>.

Politicians have no place in the private lives of patients. Patients faced with difficult decisions need to have the ability to decide the type of compassionate care that is best for their family and their beliefs, just as they would be allowed to do at any other point in their child's life.

Every day, people across our country face the deeply personal decision of whether to continue their pregnancies. Consider Maureen's story.³ Maureen was receiving regular pregnancy health care services when she learned something was very wrong around 21 weeks, through a routine ultrasound. Maureen recalls:

After an agonizing wait, the doctors confirmed our worst fears, yes one leg was shorter than the other, but **Zoey also had tumors on her liver, half her vertebrae, and water on her brain.** Our daughter Zoey had VACTERAL Syndrome. Our daughter could make it to full-term, but she had a high chance of never leaving the hospital and not living to her 1st birthday.

My husband and I were utterly devastated and drove home in silence. My husband rushed through the house and removed all Zoey's baby items knowing they could only bring more pain in the grief. Our family came over to offer their support. **This was particularly hard for my father as a life-long Republican.** But, when we were faced with the reality of Zoey's situation and the facts of his own daughter's situation, **deep down he and we all knew this late-term abortion was morally the right choice for us.** Suddenly for our family, **it wasn't about religious doctrine or politics.** The issue was our family's flesh and blood, not an abstract ideology, it was about doing what we, as an entire family, felt was best for Zoey.

We all knew it would be a short, painful and cruel life for her. **My father lent us the money** to save Zoey a short life of pain and agony, so she could go in peace. We ultimately decided that day to terminate our pregnancy. It was our last parental decision, the hardest decision I and my husband have ever made. **It was a decision made with great compassion and love for a daughter we would never meet.**

Maureen's story is heartbreaking, and it provides an example of how each pregnancy and woman's circumstances is different -- some with a healthy desired pregnancy, some with a pregnancy that is unplanned, and some with severe health conditions that modern medicine cannot fix. Politicians should acknowledge the complexities of medical decisions and respect the autonomy of pregnant people and their families to make the decision that is morally and medically best for themselves, their family, and their beliefs.

Forcing others to give birth against their will is wrong. It is not always possible for a woman to get an abortion as soon as she would like. Many things can stand in her way, such as not being able to afford it, not realizing they are pregnant, travel distance to a clinic, restrictions that have been put in place, or health issues or a fetal diagnosis later in the pregnancy. Colorado lawmakers should be working to

³ From personal account by the individual, an Arizona woman, to American Atheists staff.

dismantle the legal barriers and obstacles that shame patients and keep them away from abortion care earlier in pregnancies, instead of finding new ways to impose their beliefs on women.

We strongly oppose HB 1047, 1075, and 1079 because they needlessly impose politicians' religious views into the private lives of pregnant people and the doctors who care for them. We urge you to reject these harmful bills. If you should have any questions regarding American Atheists' opposition to HB 1047, 1075, and 1079, please contact Brett Parker, American Atheists' State Policy Manager, at bparker@atheists.org.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Kallivrousis
Broomfield, Colorado

To: Health and Insurance Committee
From: Kennedy McCarver, MA
Date: February 23, 2022
Re: Testimony in opposition to HB22-1049

Hello, I am Kennedy McCarver. I am currently a Clinical Psychology graduate student at the University of Denver, and I have lived in Colorado my entire life. I am writing this to testify in opposition to HB22-1049, Abolishing Abortion in Colorado. I am in opposition to this bill because it creates a dangerous environment for people with uteruses in Colorado who have the right to determine what does and does not happen within their bodies.

According to The Blue Bench, an organization in Colorado aimed at ending sexual assault through prevention and care, 1 in 3 women in Colorado will experience sexual assault in their lifetime. According to the CDC, almost 3 million people with uteruses in the US experience rape-related pregnancy. If this bill were to pass, it would mean that people with uteruses who are survivors of this type of violence will be retraumatized due to their resulting unnecessary involvement in the criminal-legal system. This bill would intentionally punish people with uteruses who experience rape-related pregnancy, causing more emotional and psychological damage than they already experience in having survived violence. It is also important to note that according to the 2019 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey Report, 10.1% of female students reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to have intercourse. It needs to be kept in mind that this bill does not only impact adult women, but teenage girls in Colorado who may also experience rape-related pregnancy who will be punished for a crime that wasn't their fault in the first place. This bill also disproportionately impacts multiracial people with uteruses and people of uteruses of color who are more likely to experience sexual violence in their lifetime and who have more barriers in seeking safe abortions. According to the National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community, 1 in 4 Black girls will be sexually abused before the age of 18 and 1 in 5 Black women are survivors of rape. By passing this legislation, representatives are actively perpetuating systemic racism because it will disproportionately impact minoritized populations.

As a person with a uterus in Colorado, it leaves me with sadness and despair to know there are representatives willing to write legislation to punish people with uteruses for having an abortion, even in the event they have experienced rape or incest. Voting "yes" on this bill would create an unsafe Colorado for people with uteruses who will ultimately be forced to give birth to a child they never chose to conceive and is the result of sexual assault. If not this option, then people with uteruses who have experienced this type of violence will be forced to seek unsafe medical care to have an abortion, putting them at the risk of severe physical injury or death. To pass this bill would be actively taking part in revictimizing people with uteruses who should not be held responsible for the result of someone violently assaulting them against their will.

Thank you for this opportunity, and I urge you to vote NO on HB22-1049.