

**Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs**

**05/01/2025 Upon Adjournment**

**HB25-1079 Indep Ethics Cmmn Jurisdiction**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Jeralee Gonzalez  For  themselves	<p>Dear Members of the Committee,</p> <p>I write in strong support of HB25-1079.</p> <p>This bill closes a critical gap in public accountability by extending the Independent Ethics Commission's(ICE) jurisdiction to include school and special district officials-entities that manage large budgets, make significant policy decisions, and directly impact thousands of lives.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised about backlog, resolution times, and candidate deterrence. However, ethical standards should not be compromised due to system inefficiencies. If the current process is too slow, we should invest in fixing the process-not exempt public officials from oversight. Additionally, while some argue that the IEC's scope was defunded by constitutional amendment, Colorado statute already defines local government to include school and special districts. HB25-1079 clarifies-not contradicts-that intent.</p> <p>Finally, relying on recalls or lawsuits as alternatives to ethical oversight is impractical and burdensome. These processes are often prohibitively expensive for citizens and can be politically driven. A neutral ethics body provides a more equitable, accessible path to accountability.</p> <p>I urge you to pass HB25-1079. Ethical governance should apply consistently-at every level of public service.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Jeralee Gonzalez Woodland Park CO</p>