



April 2024

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: SB189- Gender-Related Bias-Motivated Crimes

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. More than 700 community leaders are members of AAUW branches around Colorado.

One of AAUW's top priorities is to increase the number of women, and the diversity of backgrounds they represent-- including race, ethnicity, age, income, gender, and sexual identity-- in policy and other decision-making positions. While we have made progress over the years, we now face a growing number of bias-motivated crimes involving gender identity and gender expression. Senate Bill 189 adds important new protections that will bring us closer to providing the justice that victims of these offenses deserve.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports Senate Bill 189 and requests your AYE vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular border.

Su Ryden

AAUW Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

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American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

4/1/24

Re: SB24-189

To Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee -

This bill seems to redefine sexual orientation to be a "gender identity". My daughter currently considers herself a lesbian. I do not want her identity erased legally. There is a huge difference between sexual orientation and the concept of gender identity and I believe it would be a huge mistake to conflate the two as they are very different.

Also, will this bill protect people from "acting" on their identity as a "minor attracted person" i.e. pedophiles?? That is labeled in some circles as a sexual orientation and gender identity. I think this bill could be defined to do that.

This bill seems very homophobic to me. All I want to do is ensure my daughter has equal protection under the law and her sexual orientation is not discriminated against. This seems to erase that recognition.

I would tread very carefully on this. I'm afraid bills with good intentions are going to have unintended consequences such as erasing entire groups of people and enabling and protecting what we hopefully agree are bad behaviors and crimes against humanity.

Thank you.

Susan Cullison

80022

Senate Judiciary

04/01/2024 01:30 PM

SB24-189 Gender-Related Bias-Motivated Crimes

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Ellen Daehnick Against themselves	<p>Regarding: SB 24-189, Gender-Related Bias-Motivated Crimes</p> <p>Thank you to the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for allowing my testimony. My name is Ellen Daehnick, I live in Denver, CO, and I'm representing myself.</p> <p>SB 24-189 removes sexual orientation from the statute covering bias-related crimes and harassment, and replaces it with gender identity. I object to this change in the law.</p> <p>Gays and lesbians have fought for basic rights for many years in Colorado, and in 2008, the legislature passed a bill making it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in education, public accommodations, employment, and housing. Sexual orientation was defined as "an individual's orientation toward heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or transgender status or another individual's perception thereof." LGBT people celebrated the end of Colorado's reign as the "Hate State".</p> <p>However, SB 24-189 is one of a series of recent bills from Democrats aimed at limiting or removing the rights of gays and lesbians as a protected group in Colorado. In 2021, the House Bill 21-1108 changed the definition of sexual orientation as it applies to anti-discrimination law. The words heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, and transgender were all deleted from the legal definition and replaced by ill-defined gender identity in this bill, and by signing it into law, Governor Polis removed some of gays' and lesbians' hard-won rights.</p> <p>This bill, 24-189, continues that assault on the rights of gays and lesbians. By removing the same words from the definition of bias-</p>

	<p>motivated crimes and harassment, and replacing them with gender identity, this bill further erases gay people’s rights.</p> <p>The illiberal, authoritarian left behind this series of bills is doing more to undermine protections based on sexual orientation in Colorado than the Christian fundamentalist right could have ever dreamed to achieve. As a Democrat, I will tell you that the calls are truly coming from inside the house.</p> <p>I urge you to vote no on SB 24-189.</p> <p>Ellen Daehnick SD 34</p>
<p>Anaya Robinson Amend ACLU of Colorado</p>	<p>Thank you Madame Chair and committee members. I'm Anaya Robinson, Senior Policy Strategist at the ACLU of Colorado. Writing in an amend position on SB24-189. While we very much appreciate the sponsors intent for increased protection for all of the protected classes identified in Colorado, we do have some concerns around the broadness of the language in the definitions within this bill. We feel that transgender individuals are currently protected under this statute already, and feel that the inclusion of the definitions of gender identity and gender expression could open up unintended opportunity for individuals involved in domestic violence cases be subject to increased charges based on the definitions. Furthermore, the change to the definition of sexual orientation seems to broaden the identity or perceived identity of the victim, rather than the orientation of the perpetrator toward the victim. We're concerned that this language allows for misidentification of victims and could broaden the use of this statute to charge individuals based on stereotyping the victim rather than understanding the intention of the perpetrator.</p> <p>We are hopeful that we can work with the sponsors on the language in this bill, and look forward to continuing to find a path forward while this bill moves through the process. The ACLU of Colorado hopes that this committee will allow for that continued dialogue.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

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