

House Judiciary

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HB26-1082 Children Are Not for Sale Act

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Michelle Glasmann Skaggs For themselves	<p>Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Michelle, and I am a ranch manager, mother, and community advocate in rural Colorado. I am writing in strong support of HB26’s 1082, the Children Are Not for Sale Act.</p> <p>In communities like mine, we raise our children to value integrity, responsibility, and respect. We teach them to look out for one another and to stand firm against those who would harm the vulnerable. HB26’s 1082 reflects those same values by strengthening Colorado’s response to one of the most devastating crimes a child can endure.</p> <p>This bill closes critical loopholes by expanding the definition of trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude to include any exchange of value used to buy or sell access to a trafficked child. Traffickers and buyers often hide behind technicalities or the absence of cash transactions. This bill ensures the law reflects the reality of how exploitation occurs and gives prosecutors the tools they need to hold offenders fully accountable.</p> <p>HB26’s 1082 also elevates this crime to a class 1 felony, carrying the strongest penalty available under Colorado law. When an adult chooses to exploit a child, they inflict lifelong trauma. Our legal system should respond with consequences that match the gravity of that harm. This bill sends a clear message that Colorado</p>

	<p>will not tolerate the buying, selling, or exploitation of children under any circumstances.</p> <p>For rural families, child safety is not an abstract policy issue. It is personal. We know our neighbors. We show up for one another. And we expect our state to stand with us in protecting the most vulnerable among us. HB26’s 1082 does exactly that.</p> <p>This is not a partisan issue. It is a moral one. It is about safeguarding the dignity, safety, and future of Colorado’s children – including the kids growing up in small towns, on ranches, and in communities like mine.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to pass HB26’s 1082. Our children deserve nothing less than the strongest protections we can provide.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and your commitment to this issue.</p> <p>Respectfully, Michelle Skaggs</p>
<p>Sean Mandez For God's Mighty Army/ Victory in Jesus</p>	<p>I strongly support sending the most heinous criminals involved in human trafficking to jail for LIFE. No more games with violators, and send a clear message to any who premeditate these crimes. In 2023, Colorado broke a new record in human traffic cases and this is unacceptable.</p> <p>Let's raise a banner that tells Colorado families and their kids that we mean business and care for those who form our future!</p>
<p>Mary Ann Fridono For themselves</p>	<p>I support HB26-1082 Our Children are Absolutely not for Sale and should never ever! These perpetrators need to be sent to prison and kept there!</p>

<p>Deborah Gray For themselves</p>	<p>Where in any world is justification for harming anyone, let alone children with zero to Minimal consequences?? There are times when doing the right thing matters, this is it!!! On behalf of myself and any parent, caregiver, keeper and lover of Gods children we are counting on you. DO THE RIGHT THING.</p>
<p>Annie McCarty For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I am for this bill. It should be passed, for it does not even deserve tax payer money.</p> <p>The evil people and organizations (cartels) that sell children (babies too) for sex, child labor, and or organ harvesting are beyond repair or rehabilitation. This is the head of the snake and bless the people in our state and across the world who are bringing light to this abhorrent issue.</p> <p>Those who oppose this bill are likely complicit. Thank you, Representative Bottoms for shining light on this dark evil.</p> <p>â€œIf anyone causes one of these little ones- those who believe in me-to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.â€ Matthew 18:6</p> <p>Good luck predators. Your days are numbered.</p> <p>Protect our children with all you have!</p>
<p>Greg Harvey For themselves</p>	<p>I strongly support HB26-1082, the Children Are Not for Sale Act.</p> <p>Child trafficking is one of the most heinous crimes imaginable. Those who traffic children for exploitation have permanently forfeited their right to live freely in society. This bill appropriately strengthens penalties by ensuring convicted traffickers face life in prison with no possibility of parole.</p> <p>Protecting children must be non-negotiable. Justice must reflect the severity and lifelong harm caused to victims. HB26-1082 sends a clear message: Colorado will not tolerate crimes against</p>

	<p>children, and those who commit them will be held fully accountable.</p> <p>I urge the committee to pass this bill without weakening amendments.</p>
<p>Phil Lankford</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you for bringing this bill to the people. Anyone who is convicted of sex trafficking a child should have a mandatory life sentence with NO parole. Children need to be protected! This is common sense, we need more common sense in Government!</p>
<p>Sarah Jacobs</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>I support this bill.</p>
<p>Anne Lindsay</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>This issue is nonpartisan. We need to protect children, and this would be a deterrent for sexual predators.</p>
<p>Ed Haynes</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Dear House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I support HB26-1082 wholeheartedly. I was chagrined to learn that this offense is now only a Class 2 Felony. This heinous, malicious, disgusting crime against children must be punished to the fullest extent possible. Making this crime a Class 1 Felony and extending the sentence up to life in prison is fully appropriate for this most despicable of crimes. This sentencing requirement will be a deterrent to those animals who would commit this crime against children. The devastating impact of the lives on our children demands your action.</p> <p>Please support passage of HB26-1082 to protect our children in Colorado from this most horrible of crimes.</p>