

Senate Health & Human Services

03/04/2026 Upon Adjournment

HB26-1040 Sterilization Rights of Person with Disabilities

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Kristin Dallison For themselves	<p>I am writing in strong support of HB26-1040.</p> <p>We are not going backward in time, we are moving forward. Disability does not mean a person has a meaningless life. Full stop.</p> <p>The history of forced and coerced sterilization in this country is deeply troubling. People with disabilities have the same fundamental rights to bodily autonomy, family, and reproductive decision-making as anyone else. Safeguarding those rights is not controversial; it is a matter of basic human dignity.</p> <p>This bill affirms that having a disability does not diminish a person’s humanity or their right to make deeply personal medical decisions. Colorado should continue to lead in protecting civil rights, not eroding them.</p> <p>Please vote YES on HB26-1040.</p> <p>Respectfully, Kristin Dallison Bayfield, Colorado</p>
Rachel Wallace For themselves	<p>Individuals with high level disabilities, are unable to consent to anything, let alone human mutilation procedures. Protect those that cannot protect themselves</p>

<p>Wendy Smith</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Testimony for HB26-1040</p> <p>Thank you Chair and members of the committee. My name is Wendy Smith. I am a retired Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and a member of the Colorado Chapter of the American Association of Pro-Life OB/GYNs. I am here today to respectfully ask you to oppose or amend changes made last week.</p> <p>While the original intent of this bill may have been to protect vulnerable Coloradans, the amendments move it in the opposite direction. They risk transferring fundamental bodily autonomy away from the woman herself and into the hands of outside decision-makers. A court-appointed Medical Durable Power of Attorney could bypass the ethical standards required for free and valid consent for contraception, sterilization, or abortion. In a state where abortion law already lacks meaningful oversight, that risk is even greater. Our laws should safeguard vulnerable individuals “ not silence their voices or allow irreversible decisions to be imposed upon them.</p> <p>Organizations that advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities emphasize self-determination. Individuals with disabilities have the same right to direct their lives, make decisions, and exercise control over their own bodies. The World Medical Association has warned that forced or coerced sterilization is a violation of fundamental human rights, and that people with disabilities are disproportionately affected.</p> <p>These amendments authorize a court-directed Medical Durable Power of Attorney to make the most personal and irreversible decisions “ including whether a woman carries her pregnancy to term “ while removing her ability to object to sterilization or abortion. That fundamentally changes the purpose of this bill. Rather than protection, it opens the door to coercion and shifts life-altering authority away from the very individuals this legislation claims to defend.</p> <p>Members of the committee, amendments like this move decision-making away from vulnerable people instead of centering their voice. In Colorado, where all barriers to abortion have been removed, I distrust this measure and fear people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be coerced or pressured to abort and</p>

	<p>not be given the opportunity to choose life-affirming options. I urge you to preserve true safeguards for consent, autonomy, and the dignity of people with disabilities by voting NO on HB26-1040 as amended. Thank you.</p>
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