

CTTA

The Coalition for Truth and Transparency in Adoption

March 24, 2026

RE: Opposition to HB 26-1024

Dear Chair Mullica and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to respectfully request your NO vote on this bill which would extend the time period in which a newborn child could be abandoned without legal consequences at a Safe Haven location from 72 hours to 30 days. As discussed in more detail in my [opinion column](#) in today's Colorado Sun, this bill is an unnecessary solution in search of a problem, and it undermines best practices in adoption.

1. Safe Haven statutes were reportedly created to offer an emergency alternative to a possibly fatal, impulsive act by a new mother in crisis immediately after giving birth.
2. Instead, this bill promotes premeditated anonymous abandonment, and subverts truth and transparency in adoption, **with lifelong consequences for the children who grow up to be adults without knowledge of their origins, ancestral identity, or medical history.**
3. Safe Haven laws allow a person to anonymously abandon a child without prosecution, but this bill dangerously seeks to conflate and blur the definitions of abandonment and relinquishment, which requires pursuant to 19-5-103, C.R.S.:
 - a. counseling of the mother,
 - b. assessment of fathers' rights,
 - c. advisement about resources and alternatives that would help a mother parent her baby,
 - d. gathering and recording the names, ages, social and medical history, education background, of biological parents
 - e. petitioning a court using state-approved forms
4. Expedited relinquishment procedures are already in place if a child is less than one year old, pursuant to 19-5-103.5, C.R.S.

In short, HB 26-1024 is the next step down a slippery slope that does not protect mothers, undermines existing best practices in Colorado, ignores established statutory definitions and required procedures for relinquishment, and holds lifelong negative consequences for adoptees.

Respectfully,

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