



March 2026

To: House Judiciary Committee

RE: AAUW SUPPORTS SB26-018-- Legal Protections for Dignity of Minors

Dear 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 our priorities is to pursue policies that advance full access to civil rights for a diverse society. Today, it is important to protect the privacy of young people, and AAUW appreciates the sponsors' efforts to take this step in protecting those for whom a name change petition is filed. SB018 ensures that such petitions will be suppressed and unavailable to anyone except judges, court staff, parties involved in the case, authorized judicial department staff, or individuals with a court order or a specific affidavit.

AAUW of Colorado strongly supports Senate Bill 018 and requests your YES vote in committee and as the bill moves forward in the legislative process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

Hon. Su Ryden
AAUW Colorado Advocacy-Director

16699 E. Kentucky Ave.
Aurora, CO 80017
303.898.5797
suryden25@gmail.com

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.



Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council

To members of the Senate Judiciary,

My name is Kristina Ericson and I am the Policy Director for the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council. I am writing in support of SB-018

The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council is a federally-mandated, Governor-appointed council and state office that works to knock down systemic accessibility barriers so that Coloradans with disabilities can lead meaningful lives. We work to advise our state agencies, general assembly members, and congressional delegates on developing policies and rules that impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Council supports this bill as it pertains to the rights of minors with disabilities. We strongly believe that young Coloradans deserve to have their true identities and selves protected and listened to. Young Coloradans with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve to have their lived experiences taken into consideration during legal name changing processes, and we support the efforts of this bill to do so.

We are happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Best,

Kristina Ericson, MSW, CPACC, ADAC (she/her)
Director of Policy and Partnerships
[Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council](#)
Phone: (720) 703-5101

House Judiciary

03/25/2026

SB26-018 Legal Protections for Dignity of Minors

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Adrienne Telman Against themselves	This bill is an attack on parental rights! Custody agreements should never be used against a parent's freedom to take care of their child(ren).
Aleena Bankston Against themselves	<p>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 1 Corinthians 13:4-6.</p> <p>Christian love is often misunderstood by many. Truly loving someone does not mean letting them live in delusion. It means standing on truth, even when it's hard to hear. When one lives in a fabricated world and not on Truth, they find themselves trying to bear the weight of piled up lies and they stand on unstable emotions. That is hard enough for an adult, but wanting to let children cut off healthy body parts, change their names, and cut off loved ones is unbearable. No child should have adults (or other children) telling them they are in the wrong body. No one is born in the wrong body because God does not make mistakes. To cut a child off from a parent who speaks truth in love is not only damaging but so evil. Not only will it confuse the child but isolate them from someone they love. Say no to this bill that affirms lies, isolates children and destroys families. If this bill passes there are lifelong consequences, real families will be torn apart, children will be mangled and left to live a life of physical and emotional trauma.</p> <p>Deep in your hearts you know what you need to do. You will stand before God one day and have to answer for this. Will you do what's right?</p>
Barb Heidmous Against themselves	I have raised three children and I would be absolutely mortified if anyone interfered with how I parent my children from watching too much TV to the issue you falsely present as their gender identity. Children, you included, were born with a Dr. or nurse marking male or

	<p>female and rightfully so, on your birth certificate. You have no business trying to usurp the role of parents under the guise of protection. This would only legalize the mutilation of someone else's child by some governing body which has no business attempting to do so. You people must stop trying to inflict your nasty agenda on others.</p>
<p>Craig Skinner For themselves</p>	<p>This bill creates many opportunities to protect the dignity of children, and this testimony focuses on protecting the dignity and safety of transgender children. Transgender individuals are among the most vulnerable people in our country. They have been targeted non-stop by conservative and bigoted groups using any information they can get their hands on, and does not stop at transgender children. Transgender children may decide to go through the legal name change process to choose a name that aligns more with the gender they identify with. Allowing these name changes to be publicly available puts transgender children at risk of being targeted through this information.</p> <p>I am for passing SB26-018 because by suppressing these name changes, the law will protect transgender children from any potential targeting that could come simply from families taking the steps to affirm the child's gender through the legal name change process.</p>
<p>Hannah Gaona Against themselves</p>	<p>“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-6.</p> <p>To truly love people means communicating and promoting the truth to them no matter how it makes them feel. People share the truth with others to protect them from living in delusion and chaos. It is harmful and evil to tell children lies about their identity and keep them from hearing the truth. All human beings are made in the image of God. God has made each one “fearfully and wonderfully” with care and purpose (Psalm 139:14). God does not make mistakes: convincing people, especially children, that they are a mistake is evil. It is not loving to subject children to mutilation by telling them they were born in the wrong body: it is a lie. It is not loving to subject children to lifelong physical and emotional damage by attempting to change their God-given, intrinsically valuable identity. It is not loving to subject children to people who will isolate them from parents who desire to speak truth to them in love and caring concern for their child's well-being. Children who are cut off from the truth suffer from confusion, instability, and insecurity. SB26-018 affirms and promotes lies, and it will isolate vulnerable children and destroy families; SB26-018 is a danger and impediment to children who are made in the image of God.</p>

	<p>Do not suppress the truth: choose love instead of lies.Â Vote â€~ NOâ€™™ on SB26-018.</p> <p>â€œâ€;but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.â€◆Â Matthew 18:6.</p>
<p>Jaimee Smith Against herself</p>	<p>Dear Members, keeping any information from the parent or guardian of a minor child, whether you agree or not with their beliefs or not, is wrong!! That child did not enroll themselves. They are under the guidance of their parent or family member, not the school. If a child decides to change their name, that is a big decision that they should be speaking with their family about. Not a person they see for a couple hours out of their day. It is not the schools responsibility to raise these children. They are here to help educate them about subjects outlined by the curriculum. This is way outside the scope of a schools responsibility. Jaimee Smith</p>
<p>jeany rush Against herself</p>	<p>TO: House Judiciary resent 3-25-26</p> <p>TO: Senate Judiciary</p> <p>RE: SB26-018 Legal Protections for Dignity of Minors</p> <p>Sponsors: Wallace, Kolker, Froelich, Garcia</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO CONSTITUENT 2-18-26</p> <p>VOTE: NO THERE IS NO DIGNITY IN THIS BILL!</p> <p>If at first you donâ€™t succeed, try again? Is this the Sick Distorted Game you are now playing? Leftover damages from HB25-1312?</p> <p>You want to Use the Anti-Discrimination Act to Force Parents and Courts to accept sexual orientation, gender identity, expression? All this while our President already issued Executive Orders to stop all of this ideological, non-scientific RAPE AND BUTCHERY OF OUR CHILDREN!</p> <p>Again, force Parents to bow down to your mental illness, and use the STRONG, CROOKED arm of the Fake Law Courts to literally steal, kidnap children from their homes!</p> <p>You all are attacking family, parental authority, thereby stealing the rights of a family to guide their children!</p> <p>Why are you hiding the record, so that parents cannot find out, if these kids have already been STOLEN, KIDNAPPED FROM THEIR REAL FAMILIES and replaced often by mentally deranged Pseudo Foster Care just trying to make a buck?</p>

	<p>Wait, verbal permission, using an affidavit, as if crooked people won't lie?</p> <p>EARTH TO MENTALLY DERANGED LEGISLATORS!</p> <p>WHO DESIGNATED YOU THE EXPERT ON THE "BEST INTEREST" OF THE KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES? You are not GOD!</p> <p>Your reign of terror has extended to attacks on our Human Rights in Western Civilization, our culture, indeed our Humanity!!</p> <p>ADD INSULT TO INJURY! YOU ARE ONCE AGAIN USING THE SAFETY CLAUSE TO STRIP AWAY OUR RIGHTS AS CITIZENS OF COLORADO TO VOTE ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE IMPACTING OUR ENTIRE LIVES! Have you all lost your minds, or have you become complicit in the greatest crimes of this nation, thereby violating your oath of office to defend and protect our citizens; the very citizens you are legislating to DEATH??? I object in utter OUTRAGE!</p>
<p>Jeffery Heidmous</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>I am 100% against denying parents the right to be fully involved in all gender transition care decisions for their child. The state has no business, at any stage in the process, in being involved in a child's transition care. Excluding a child's parents at any stage is unacceptable.</p> <p>We live in the State of Colorado, not the Communist Republic of Colorado!!</p>
<p>John Fukyu</p> <p>Against Children</p>	<p>I know you pathetic Demoncrats won't read this cause it does not align with your agenda to mutilate mentally ill children. I am 1000% against this bill and any bill that keeps ANYTHING away from the parents or guardians knowing and understanding, that undermines the parents and honestly the health and wellbeing of the children involved in keeping secrets from the protectors. And if this bill is in favor of hiding information from parents about their children, than this bill is in fact a bill that supports the very people that have sponsored it they are certainly pedophiles preying on innocent children and their mental health to manipulate them, and keep them vulnerable to your own disgusting actions and desires.</p>
<p>Joseph Pero</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>SB26-018 changes family law in ways that raise serious concerns. It adds a vague requirement that courts evaluate whether parents recognize a child's identity related to a protected class, which risks turning custody decisions into ideological judgments rather than evaluations of parenting fitness and child safety. This language is subjective, undefined, and likely to increase conflict and litigation between parents.</p> <p>The bill also automatically suppresses certain court records, reducing transparency while creating unclear access rules. Protecting children is</p>

	<p>important, but this approach goes too far and may create constitutional problems involving parental rights and free speech.</p> <p>I urge lawmakers to reconsider or significantly narrow this bill so family courts remain focused on objective child-welfare standards.</p>
<p>Joseph Pero Against themselves</p>	<p>I respectfully and strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill 26-018 because it moves Colorado family law away from objective child-welfare standards and toward subjective ideological judgments.</p> <p>SB26-018 requires courts to consider whether a parent “recognizes” a child’s identity related to a protected class when determining parenting time and decision-making authority. This language is vague, undefined, and invites inconsistent judicial interpretation. Custody decisions should be based on measurable factors such as safety, stability, and demonstrated parenting ability, not whether a parent’s beliefs align with an ideological standard.</p> <p>The bill also risks infringing on fundamental parental rights by allowing viewpoint-based considerations to influence custody outcomes. Even with constitutional caveats included, the ambiguity of this standard will likely increase litigation and deepen conflict between parents rather than protect children.</p> <p>In addition, the bill’s automatic suppression of minor name-change records goes beyond reasonable privacy protections. Blanket suppression reduces transparency while creating unclear access rules that may be difficult to administer consistently.</p> <p>Colorado family courts work best when decisions are grounded in clear, objective criteria focused solely on the child’s welfare. SB26-018 introduces uncertainty, increases conflict, and invites constitutional challenges without demonstrating clear benefits.</p> <p>Why are our legislators pursuing misguided policies under the banner of safety and child protection while ignoring the real issues families face?</p> <p>For the reasons stated, I strongly urge a NO vote on Senate Bill 26-018.</p>
<p>Joseph Pero Against themselves</p>	<p>I urge you to vote NO on SB26-018. This bill is a dangerous overreach that undermines parental authority, restricts free speech, and places political ideology above common sense. It threatens to penalize loving parents for raising their children according to their values.</p> <p>Every parent has the right to guide their child’s upbringing, NOT the government. SB26-018 tramples that right.</p>

	Please stand up for freedom, for families, and for the Constitution. I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB26-018.
Karen Guyette Against themselves	As a parent myself I believe the parents should be the child's biggest advocate. I understand in cases of physical abuse we need to have others step in but that is not the case here. A family structure is key to the survival of our democracy. It is not up to others outside the family to dictate how to raise our children. WHO loves a child more than God and his parents. Please do NOT strip the rights of parents. If a person wants to change names, genders or whatever let them do that as an adult
Kate Brown Against themselves	I am strongly opposed to the passing of this Bill. It is undermining parental rights...and I am not even a parent. I am a retired educator for 40 years. During this time, I was a classroom teacher, a reading specialist and a school counselor. Based on each of these experiences and on the value of every parent and of every child, regardless of circumstance, this Bill violates the very essence of the family.
Kathryn Kaspar Against themselves	Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am writing to you with great concern regarding SB26-018. This bill does not strengthen safety for children. Instead it usurps parental rights. Non-custodial parents have the right to be notified of their child's name change. This bill removes the reality-affirming parents from their children's lives. Please vote "No" to this bill. Sincerely, Mrs. Kathryn Kaspar
Leslie Barrett For themselves	At a time when our trans friends and neighbors are under constant attack, it is imperative that we take every measure possible to protect them. This bill will help minors achieve a bit more safety by protecting name changes so kids don't get outed against their will. Anti-trans legislation and action from our government has been increasing and endangering our communities at an increasing pace for years. Let's do what we can to help protect as many children as we can. Please pass this bill.
LILY HUNTSMAN Against themselves	Please protect families and parents rights by votong against this bill.
Meral Jones Against	Dear Chair and Committee Members,

<p>themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my opposition to SB26-018.</p> <p>While I understand and respect the intention to protect minors, I have serious concerns about how this bill may impact families, parental rights, and the role of the court system in deeply personal matters.</p> <p>»</p> <p>1. Expansion of Court Influence in Family Dynamics</p> <p>SB26-018 introduces a new factor in custody decisions—whether a parent affirms a child’s identity related to a protected class.</p> <p>This raises concern because it shifts the court’s role from evaluating the overall well-being of a child to potentially weighing ideological or identity-based criteria in determining parenting time and decision-making.</p> <p>Family courts already operate under a “best interest of the child” standard. Adding subjective identity-based factors risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing conflict between parents • Introducing bias into custody decisions • Expanding court involvement into deeply personal family beliefs <p>»</p> <p>2. Potential Impact on Parental Rights</p> <p>Parents are typically the primary decision-makers in their child’s upbringing, including navigating complex developmental, emotional, and identity-related experiences.</p>
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	<p>This bill may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create pressure on parents to align with specific viewpoints • Risk unequal treatment in custody proceedings • Undermine a parent’s ability to thoughtfully and responsibly guide their child <p>Even the perception that courts may favor one parenting approach over another can create fear, division, and instability within families.</p> <p>»</p> <p>3. Privacy Provisions Need More Balance</p> <p>While protecting a minor’s privacy is important, the automatic suppression of court records raises questions about transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Current systems already allow for records to be sealed when necessary.</p> <p>A blanket approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes judicial discretion • May limit appropriate access in legitimate situations • Could create unintended legal or procedural challenges <p>»</p> <p>4. Real-World Impact on Families</p> <p>In practice, policies like this do not exist in a vacuum.</p> <p>They affect:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divorced or separated families navigating complex situations • Parents trying to act in good faith under evolving guidance • Children who need stability, not increased legal conflict <p>Legislation in this area should aim to reduce conflict—not escalate it.</p>
<p>Patty McKernan</p> <p>Against</p> <p>Protect Kids Colorado</p>	<p>Members of the Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I will be at the installation of our new Archbishop, James Golka while you are in this hearing. My name is Patty McKernan, a board director for Protect Kids Colorado and concerned Catholic citizen who spent the better part of the last year fighting for the protection of children. I want you to think of one thing as you consider whether this bill should see the light of day. If the "trusted adult" who is helping a child change their name is actually a pedophile or a sex offender/trafficker, don't you think that hiding a name change from the parents or other interested parties will aid in trafficking children? One of the things you are supposed to do as lawmakers is to consider the consequences of your legislation. Remember when you passed the competency bill? What has happened since then? Oh just that everyone is considered incompetent to stand trial. Is that what you intended? Probably not. So let's consider the unintended consequences of this bill. A sex offender or trafficker grooms a child, aids in getting their name changed and then hidden from the parents. The child disappears, never to be found again. THIS is the unintended consequence. Vote no on this bill. Unless you think hurting children has some kind of benefit...do no harm. Vote no.</p>
<p>Rachel Ambuul</p> <p>Against</p> <p>themselves</p>	<p>My name is Rachel Ambuul and I am in opposition to this bill.</p> <p>This government, instituted by the people, for the people, and under God has an obligation to punish the evildoer and uphold good. This bill promotes an evil lie and rewards those who would use it to mislead children and turn them against their God given parents. You would be punishing parents for telling the truth to their own children. This bill defies God and his law and goes against everything the government is supposed to be. You know this truth in your hearts. You must repent and turn to God. Please do not pass this bill.</p> <p>Romans 2:15-16</p> <p>[15] They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts</p>

	accuse or even excuse them [16] on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.
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House Judiciary

03/25/2026 01:30 PM

SB26-018 Legal Protections for Dignity of Minors

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

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	<p>The bill also automatically suppresses certain court records, reducing transparency while creating unclear access rules. Protecting children is important, but this approach goes too far and may create constitutional problems involving parental rights and free speech.</p> <p>I urge lawmakers to reconsider or significantly narrow this bill so family courts remain focused on objective child-welfare standards.</p>
<p>Joseph Pero Against himself</p>	<p>I respectfully and strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill 26-018 because it moves Colorado family law away from objective child-welfare standards and toward subjective ideological judgments.</p> <p>SB26-018 requires courts to consider whether a parent “recognizes” a child’s identity related to a protected class when determining parenting time and decision-making authority. This language is vague, undefined, and invites inconsistent judicial interpretation. Custody decisions should be based on measurable factors such as safety, stability, and demonstrated parenting ability, not whether a parent’s beliefs align with an ideological standard.</p> <p>The bill also risks infringing on fundamental parental rights by allowing viewpoint-based considerations to influence custody outcomes. Even with constitutional caveats included, the ambiguity of this standard will likely increase litigation and deepen conflict between parents rather than protect children.</p> <p>In addition, the bill’s automatic suppression of minor name-change records goes beyond reasonable privacy protections. Blanket suppression reduces transparency while creating unclear access rules that may be difficult to administer consistently.</p> <p>Colorado family courts work best when decisions are grounded in clear, objective criteria focused solely on the child’s welfare. SB26-018 introduces uncertainty, increases conflict, and invites constitutional challenges without demonstrating clear benefits.</p>

	<p>Why are our legislators pursuing misguided policies under the banner of safety and child protection while ignoring the real issues families face?</p> <p>For the reasons stated, I strongly urge a NO vote on Senate Bill 26-018.</p>
<p>Craig Skinner</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>This bill creates many opportunities to protect the dignity of children, and this testimony focuses on protecting the dignity and safety of transgender children. Transgender individuals are among the most vulnerable people in our country. They have been targeted non-stop by conservative and bigoted groups using any information they can get their hands on, and does not stop at transgender children. Transgender children may decide to go through the legal name change process to choose a name that aligns more with the gender they identify with. Allowing these name changes to be publicly available puts transgender children at risk of being targeted through this information.</p> <p>I am for passing SB26-018 because by suppressing these name changes, the law will protect transgender children from any potential targeting that could come simply from families taking the steps to affirm the child's gender through the legal name change process.</p>
<p>Patty McKernan</p> <p>Against Protect Kids Colorado</p>	<p>Members of the Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I will be at the installation of our new Archbishop, James Golka while you are in this hearing. My name is Patty McKernan, a board director for Protect Kids Colorado and concerned Catholic citizen who spent the better part of the last year fighting for the protection of children. I want you to think of one thing as you consider whether this bill should see the light of day. If the "trusted adult" who is helping a child change their name is actually a pedophile or a sex offender/trafficker, don't you think that hiding a name change from the parents or other interested parties will aid in trafficking children? One of the things you are supposed to do as lawmakers is to consider the consequences of your legislation. Remember when you passed the competency bill? What has happened since then? Oh just that everyone is considered incompetent to stand trial. Is that what you intended?</p>

	<p>Probably not. So let's consider the unintended consequences of this bill. A sex offender or trafficker grooms a child, aids in getting their name changed and then hidden from the parents. The child disappears, never to be found again. THIS is the unintended consequence. Vote no on this bill. Unless you think hurting children has some kind of benefit...do no harm. Vote no.</p>
<p>Jaimee Smith Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members, keeping any information from the parent or guardian of a minor child, whether you agree or not with their beliefs or not, is wrong!! That child did not enroll themselves. They are under the guidance of their parent or family member, not the school. If a child decides to change their name, that is a big decision that they should be speaking with their family about. Not a person they see for a couple hours out of their day. It is not the schools responsibility to raise these children. They are here to help educate them about subjects outlined by the curriculum. This is way outside the scope of a schools responsibility. Jaimee Smith</p>
<p>jeany rush Against themselves</p>	<p>TO: House Judiciary resent 3-25-26 TO: Senate Judiciary RE: SB26-018 Legal Protections for Dignity of Minors Sponsors: Wallace, Kolker, Froelich, Garcia FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO CONSTITUENT 2-18-26 VOTE: NO THERE IS NO DIGNITY IN THIS BILL!</p> <p>If at first you don't succeed, try again? Is this the Sick Distorted Game you are now playing? Leftover damages from HB25-1312?</p> <p>You want to Use the Anti-Discrimination Act to Force Parents and Courts to accept sexual orientation, gender identity, expression? All this while our President already issued Executive Orders to stop all of this ideological, non-scientific RAPE AND BUTCHERY OF OUR CHILDREN!</p> <p>Again, force Parents to bow down to your mental illness, and use the STRONG, CROOKED arm of the Fake Law Courts to literally steal, kidnap children from their homes!</p>

	<p>You all are attacking family, parental authority, thereby stealing the rights of a family to guide their children!</p> <p>Why are you hiding the record, so that parents cannot find out, if these kids have already been STOLEN, KIDNAPPED FROM THEIR REAL FAMILIES and replaced often by mentally deranged Pseudo Foster Care just trying to make a buck?</p> <p>Wait, verbal permission, using an affidavit, as if crooked people won't lie?</p> <p>EARTH TO MENTALLY DERANGED LEGISLATORS!</p> <p>WHO DESIGNATED YOU THE EXPERT ON THE "BEST INTEREST" OF THE KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES? You are not GOD!</p> <p>Your reign of terror has extended to attacks on our Human Rights in Western Civilization, our culture, indeed our Humanity!!</p> <p>ADD INSULT TO INJURY! YOU ARE ONCE AGAIN USING THE SAFETY CLAUSE TO STRIP AWAY OUR RIGHTS AS CITIZENS OF COLORADO TO VOTE ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE IMPACTING OUR ENTIRE LIVES! Have you all lost your minds, or have you become complicit in the greatest crimes of this nation, thereby violating your oath of office to defend and protect our citizens; the very citizens you are legislating to DEATH??? I object in utter OUTRAGE!</p>
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	<p>Romans 2:15-16</p> <p>[15] They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them [16] on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.</p>
<p>Hannah Gaona</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-6.</p> <p>To truly love people means communicating and promoting the truth to them no matter how it makes them feel. People share the truth with others to protect them from living in delusion and chaos. It is harmful and evil to tell children lies about their identity and keep them from hearing the truth. All human beings are made in the image of God. God has made each one</p> <p>“fearfully and wonderfully” with care and purpose (Psalm 139:14). God does not make mistakes: convincing people, especially children, that they are a mistake is evil. It is not loving to subject children to mutilation by telling them they were born in the wrong body: it is a lie. It is not loving to subject children to lifelong physical and emotional damage by attempting to change their God-given, intrinsically valuable identity. It is not loving to subject children to people who will isolate them from parents who desire to speak truth to them in love and caring concern for their child’s well-being. Children who are cut off from the truth suffer from confusion, instability, and insecurity. SB26-018 affirms and promotes lies, and it will isolate vulnerable children and destroy families; SB26-018 is a danger and impediment to children who are made in the image of God.</p> <p>Do not suppress the truth: choose love instead of lies. Vote “NO” on SB26-018.</p> <p>“but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone</p>

	<p>fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.â€”â€” Matthew 18:6.</p>
<p>Aleena Bankston Against themselves</p>	<p>â€œLove is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.â€”â€” 1 Corinthiansâ€”â€”13â€”â€”4â€”â€”6â€”.</p> <p>Christian â€”loveâ€” is often misunderstood by many. Truly loving someone does not mean letting them live in delusion. It means standing on truth, even when itâ€™s hard to hear. When one lives in a fabricated world and not on Truth, they find themselves trying to bear the weight of piled up lies and they stand on unstable emotions. That is hard enough for an adult, but wanting to let children cut off healthy body parts, change their names, and cut off loved ones is unbearable. No child should have adults (or other children) telling them they are in the wrong body. No one is born in the wrong body because God does not make mistakes. To cut a child off from a parent who speaks truth in love is not only damaging but so evil. Not only will it confuse the child but isolate them from someone they love. Say no to this bill that affirms lies, isolates children and destroys families. If this bill passes there are lifelong consequences, real families will be torn apart, children will be maned and left to live a life of physical and emotional trauma.</p> <p>Deep in your hearts you know what you need to do. You will stand before God one day and have to answer for this. Will you do whatâ€™s right?</p>
<p>Barb Heidmous Against themselves</p>	<p>I have raised three children and I would be absolutely mortified if anyone interfered with how I parent my children from watching too much TV to the issue you falsely present as their gender identity. Children, you included, were born with a Dr. or nurse marking male or female and rightfully so, on your birth certificate. You have no business trying to usurp the role of parents under the</p>

	<p>guise of protection. This would only legalize the mutilation of someone else's child by some governing body which has no business attempting to do so. You people must stop trying to inflict your nasty agenda on others.</p>
<p>Leslie Barrett For themselves</p>	<p>At a time when our trans friends and neighbors are under constant attack, it is imperative that we take every measure possible to protect them. This bill will help minors achieve a bit more safety by protecting name changes so kids don't get outed against their will. Anti-trans legislation and action from our government has been increasing and endangering our communities at an increasing pace for years. Let's do what we can to help protect as many children as we can. Please pass this bill.</p>
<p>LILY HUNTSMAN Against themselves</p>	<p>Please protect families and parents rights by voting against this bill.</p>
<p>Jeffery Heidmous Against themselves</p>	<p>I am 100% against denying parents the right to be fully involved in all gender transition care decisions for their child. The state has no business, at any stage in the process, in being involved in a child's transition care. Excluding a child's parents at any stage is unacceptable.</p> <p>We live in the State of Colorado, not the Communist Republic of Colorado!!</p>
<p>Joseph Pero Against themselves</p>	<p>I urge you to vote NO on SB26-018. This bill is a dangerous overreach that undermines parental authority, restricts free speech, and places political ideology above common sense. It threatens to penalize loving parents for raising their children according to their values.</p> <p>Every parent has the right to guide their child's upbringing, NOT the government. SB26-018 tramples that right.</p>

	<p>Please stand up for freedom, for families, and for the Constitution. I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB26-018.</p>
<p>Kate Brown Against themselves</p>	<p>I am strongly opposed to the passing of this Bill. It is undermining parental rights...and I am not even a parent. I am a retired educator for 40 years. During this time, I was a classroom teacher, a reading specialist and a school counselor. Based on each of these experiences and on the value of every parent and of every child, regardless of circumstance, this Bill violates the very essence of the family.</p>
<p>Adrienne Telman Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is an attack on parental rights! Custody agreements should never be used against a parent's freedom to take care of their child(ren).</p>
<p>Meral Jones Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Chair and Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to SB26-018.</p> <p>While I understand and respect the intention to protect minors, I have serious concerns about how this bill may impact families, parental rights, and the role of the court system in deeply personal matters.</p> <p>â , »</p> <p>âš-i , 1. Expansion of Court Influence in Family Dynamics</p> <p>SB26-018 introduces a new factor in custody decisionsâ€”whether a parent affirms a childâ€™s identity related to a protected class.</p>

	<p>This raises concern because it shifts the court’s role from evaluating the overall well-being of a child to potentially weighing ideological or identity-based criteria in determining parenting time and decision-making.</p> <p>Family courts already operate under a “best interest of the child” standard. Adding subjective identity-based factors risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing conflict between parents • Introducing bias into custody decisions • Expanding court involvement into deeply personal family beliefs <p>»</p> <p>§ 2. Potential Impact on Parental Rights</p> <p>Parents are typically the primary decision-makers in their child’s upbringing, including navigating complex developmental, emotional, and identity-related experiences.</p> <p>This bill may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create pressure on parents to align with specific viewpoints • Risk unequal treatment in custody proceedings • Undermine a parent’s ability to thoughtfully and responsibly guide their child
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	<p>Even the perception that courts may favor one parenting approach over another can create fear, division, and instability within families.</p> <p>»</p> <p>3. Privacy Provisions Need More Balance</p> <p>While protecting a minor’s privacy is important, the automatic suppression of court records raises questions about transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Current systems already allow for records to be sealed when necessary.</p> <p>A blanket approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes judicial discretion • May limit appropriate access in legitimate situations • Could create unintended legal or procedural challenges <p>»</p> <p>4. Real-World Impact on Families</p> <p>In practice, policies like this do not exist in a vacuum.</p>
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	<p>They affect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divorced or separated families navigating complex situations • Parents trying to act in good faith under evolving guidance • Children who need stability, not increased legal conflict <p>Legislation in this area should aim to reduce conflict”not escalate it.</p>
<p>Kathryn Kaspar</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to you with great concern regarding SB26-018. This bill does not strengthen safety for children. Instead it usurps parental rights. Non-custodial parents have the right to be notified of their child's name change. This bill removes the reality-affirming parents from their children's lives.</p> <p>Please vote "No" to this bill.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mrs. Kathryn Kaspar</p>
<p>Susan Cullison</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Please stop giving children adult legal responsibilities. They are children. Children should not be in charge. All of this secrecy is unethical and sheds light on the fact that this belief system relies on going undercover and granting unnatural privileges, which is NEVER in the best interest of children.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Constituent,</p> <p>Susan Cullison</p>
<p>Rebekah Chaves</p> <p>Against</p>	<p>This bill would discriminate against parents of children who have been indoctrinated in radical gender theory by making them unable to even see if their children have requested a name</p>

themselves	<p>change. It is one more example of the state whittling away the rights of parents one action at a time. I am urging representatives to vote against this bill, not only for the sake of parents, but for the children caught in this ideology. Research shows that the vast majority of children who experience gender confusion will grow out of it. This is not the case for children who are socially transitioned via just such steps as name changes. These interventions place children at an extremely high risk of self harm (in addition to the mutilation surgeries marketed as gender affirmation) and suicide. If parents do not know their children are pursuing such social transition intervention, they cannot help mitigate this risk.</p>
<p>Olivia Compton For Inside Out Youth Services</p>	<p>Thank you, Representative Mabrey and members of the committee, for the opportunity to share my testimony. My name is Dr. Olivia Compton, and I am a Board Member and the Vice Chair of Policy & Advocacy Committee at Inside Out Youth Services, which works with LGBTQIA2+ youth and young adults to build access, equity, and power in Colorado Springs. We urge the committee to vote in favor of SB26-018.</p> <p>Transgender and gender diverse youth deserve privacy, and they deserve the right to live their life without a past they did not ask for following them. Part of the reason for transitioning as a teenager is to avoid endogenous puberty and subsequent harassment, both of which can result in negative mental and physical health consequences. Allowing others to access their name change records without permission opens them up to the very harassment they hope to avoid. Because law enforcement can still access these records, concerns about avoiding culpability for past wrongs are made moot. For these reasons, Inside Out Youth Services implores the members of this committee to vote in favor of SB 018.</p>
<p>Emma Farrell For themselves</p>	<p>Minors should be able to legally change their name without fear of discrimination, harassment, or public doxxing. Please make these records private for minors and eliminate the publishing requirements. Thank you.</p>

I submit this testimony today not in opposition to the values that inspired SB26-018, but out of deep concern that the bill, as written, undermines the very principles we as Democrats have fought for: transparency, equity, due process, and the protection of vulnerable families.

We all share the same goal — ensuring that every child in Colorado is safe, respected, and treated with dignity. But good intentions do not guarantee good policy. When legislation risks unintended harm, it is our responsibility to pause, reassess, and ensure we are not creating new inequities in the name of solving old ones.

SB26-018 automatically suppresses minor name-change records. On the surface, that sounds protective. But colleagues, we have spent decades championing open courts, public accountability, and transparent government. We have argued — correctly — that secrecy in the justice system disproportionately harms marginalized communities. This bill moves us in the opposite direction.

When we seal entire case files by default, we reduce oversight. We limit the ability of journalists, advocates, and civil-rights organizations to identify patterns of bias or unequal treatment. We make it harder to ensure that courts are applying standards fairly across race, class, and geography. Transparency is not the enemy of dignity — it is the guardian of justice.

And let's talk about equity. We know that in family-law disputes, low-income parents, immigrant parents, and parents of color already face systemic disadvantages. Eliminating public notice and suppressing records may unintentionally silence the very parents who most need visibility into the process. A parent working two jobs, a parent without legal representation, a parent navigating language barriers — these are the people most likely to be left out when notice disappears.

We should not advance a bill that risks widening the gap between families with resources and families without them.

The bill also instructs courts to consider whether a parent “recognizes the child’s identity as it relates to a protected class.” That language is well-intentioned, but dangerously vague. Without clear standards, we risk inconsistent rulings that vary from judge to judge, county to county. We risk creating a system where subjective interpretation replaces evidence-based decision-making. And we risk weaponizing identity in custody disputes — something none of us want.

If we care about protecting LGBTQ+ youth — and we do — then we must ensure the laws we pass are strong, clear, and enforceable. Ambiguity does not protect vulnerable children. It exposes them to uneven justice.

Finally, the safety clause. Colleagues, we have always defended the right of the people to engage with major policy changes. When we attach a safety clause to a bill that fundamentally alters court transparency and family-law standards, we send a message — intentionally or not — that public input is a threat rather than a strength. That is not who we are.

We can protect children without sacrificing transparency. We can support identity-affirming policies without weakening due process. We can advance dignity without sidelining families who are already struggling to be heard.

Colleagues, a “no” vote today is not a rejection of our values — it is a defense of them. It is an invitation to come back with a stronger bill, a clearer bill, a bill that protects children **and** preserves the principles we hold dear. Let's take the time to get this right. I urge you to vote no.