

CML Testimony

HB26-1288

Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Owen Brigner and I'm here on behalf of the Colorado Municipal League, which represents 99% of the towns and cities in our state.

CML appreciates the thoughtful structure of this proposed amendment and the creation of the committee. CML is working to gather more data, but preliminary information suggests that jury trials in municipal courts are relatively rare. This raises a question about how municipal courts will be affected by the committee's ultimate recommendations, whether the perspectives of municipal courts are adequately represented or whether municipal courts should be included under the purview at all. Right now, the make-up of the committee is 7 state court representatives and 1 municipal court representative. District courts and county courts get an urban and rural representative each and also the Chair of the Criminal and Civil Rules Committees, and then municipal courts get one representative.

If municipal courts remain part of the committee, ensuring meaningful input from their judges will help the committee develop recommendations that account for the unique operations of these courts.

But regardless, CML is neutral on the proposal but encourages thoughtful consideration of municipal court representation to ensure any recommendations are practical and inclusive.