



April 2026

To: Senate Business, Labor & Technology Committee
Re: AAUW Supports SB133— Colorado Artist Companies

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 AAUW members in local branches around the state.

AAUW has led the fight for economic empowerment for women, and we have made progress over the years. Yet women continue to face barriers to reach our full potential. SB133 will give artists the ability to operate as a for-profit business along with the liability protection of a corporation. Owners will maintain their creative freedom as an individual artist, and will have a "safety net" for their intellectual property if the business ever closes.

SB133 will help artists, especially women, increase their lifetime earnings that will lead to a more secure retirement.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports SB133 and urges your AYE vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Hon. Su Ryden
AAUW Colorado Advocacy Director

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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.

Senate Business, Labor, & Technology

04/09/2026

SB26-133 Colorado Artist Companies

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Davon Williams For themselves	<p>Chair and members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Davon Williams, a Colorado-based music entrepreneur and founder of Incorporated Minds Music Empire (IMME) / D and A Entertainment Group, a Colorado based record label. I am also a candidate for House District 3. I support SB26-133.</p> <p>This bill addresses a real gap in the creative economy. Artists already operate as businesses—creating intellectual property and generating revenue—but lack a legal structure that protects ownership and long-term sustainability.</p> <p>The “artist company” model allows artists to formalize ownership, contribute intellectual property as capital, and retain control of their work. The majority artist ownership requirement is critical to keeping both creative and economic control aligned.</p> <p>From my experience running a record label, ownership determines whether artists can build sustainable careers or remain in unstable cycles.</p> <p>This bill also builds on recent momentum, including the inaugural Music Advocacy Day in Colorado proclaimed last October, which I helped advance.</p> <p>SB26-133 provides needed structure for artists to operate as businesses.</p>

	<p>I urge your support.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Davon Williams</p>
<p>Kennedy Pugh For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am Kennedy Pugh. I am a Colorado-based artist, educator, and community organizer, and I wa honored to have been recognized with the Colorado Creative Industries Governor’s Award.</p> <p>Through my work across Southern Colorado, particularly in Pueblo, I have had the privilege of working closely with young people, artists, and communities who are actively creating meaningful, high-quality work that reflects their lived experiences. What I consistently see is not a lack of talent or innovation”but a lack of structures that allow artists to retain ownership and build sustainability from what they create.</p> <p>The Colorado Artist Company Act addresses that gap in a clear and impactful way. By ensuring that artists maintain majority ownership in companies centered on creative work, this bill affirms that artistic expression is not only culturally significant, but also economically valuable. It provides a framework for artists to collaborate, contribute their intellectual property as capital, and define a shared mission while maintaining agency over their work.</p> <p>In communities like Pueblo, where creativity is deeply connected to identity, belonging, and opportunity, this kind of structure has tangible benefits. When artists have ownership, they are more likely to remain rooted in their communities, contribute to local economies, and create work that reflects authentic stories and perspectives.</p> <p>This bill also supports broader community well-being. In my experience, when individuals”especially young people”are given the opportunity to see their voice as valuable and to have ownership over their contributions, it fosters confidence, stability, and a stronger sense of belonging. These are critical components of healthy and thriving communities.</p> <p>The Colorado Artist Company Act represents a meaningful step toward aligning our systems with the realities of today’s creative economy”one that values not only the output of artists, but the artists themselves as owners, collaborators, and leaders.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and your consideration.</p>
<p>ROXANNE PIGNANELLI For</p>	<p>Colorado stands at an important crossroads in how we value and invest in the arts as a vital part of our society. For far too long, the arts have</p>

Pignanelli Partners	<p>been underfunded and under-addressed, despite their profound impact on our communities, our economy, and the well-being of our citizens.</p> <p>The arts are not a luxury—they are essential. They contribute to economic growth by supporting artists, creative entrepreneurs, and cultural institutions that drive local economies, attract tourism, and create jobs. At the same time, the arts play a critical role in education, helping young people develop creativity, confidence, communication skills, and emotional resilience.</p> <p>SB26-133 presents an opportunity for Colorado to lead. By investing in artists and supporting their economic endeavors, we are not only uplifting individuals—we are strengthening entire communities. We are fostering innovation, preserving cultural identity, and creating pathways for future generations to thrive.</p> <p>Colorado has the chance to set a standard for how states can meaningfully support the creative sector. This bill is a step toward honoring that commitment and ensuring that the arts are recognized as a foundational pillar of a healthy, vibrant, and equitable society.</p> <p>I urge your support of SB26-133.</p> <p>Roxanne Pignanelli Pignanelli Partners</p>
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