

*“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb . I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” Psalm 139:13-16*

Heavenly Father, I come before you today with a heavy heart. It grieves me to know that if this bill passes, many of our little unborn babies will be slaughtered in the name of women’s rights. It grieves me that our unborn babies are so devalued by our state legislature, that they will have no possibility for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They will be stripped of all humanity and the right to life outside their mother’s womb. They will have their little bodies pulled apart and sucked out as though they are nothing but garbage. Father, please, please intervene and convict the hearts of those who would support the killing of these innocent babies. May they see the travesty of all that is in this bill. May they come to their senses and vote no before another innocent life is taken. I pray all this in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Patrice Gerber  
3691 Sandoval Street  
Brighton, CO 80601  
303-720-8714



**Allan E. Parker, Jr., *President***  
**The Justice Foundation**  
**Expertise**

**Women's Health**  
**Limited Government**  
**Parental Rights**  
**Effects of Abortion on Women**

**Newsmaker**

**Wall Street Journal**  
**Jim Lehrer News Hour**  
**Hannity and Colmes**  
**Houston Chronicle**  
**Dallas Morning News**  
**Washington Times**  
**Los Angeles Times**  
**O'Reilly Factor**  
**BBC Radio**  
**International Herald Tribune**  
**Co-Host, "Faces of Abortion"**  
**Television Program**

**The Justice Foundation**  
**8023 Vantage Drive, Suite 1275**  
**San Antonio, TX 78230**  
**[www.thejusticefoundation.org](http://www.thejusticefoundation.org)**  
**[www.operationoutcry.org](http://www.operationoutcry.org)**

**The Justice Foundation, Operation Outcry,**  
**Center Against Forced Abortion and The Moral Outcry**

Allan Parker, President of The Justice Foundation, is a former Professor of Law at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, where he taught Education Law and Civil Procedure. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of Texas, and studied International Human Rights at the International Human Rights Institute in Strasbourg, France. He taught International Human Rights at the St. Mary's Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria in 1992.

The Justice Foundation represents the women and men of **Operation Outcry**, a ministry of The Justice Foundation that seeks to end the pain of abortion in America and around the world by mobilizing women and men hurt by abortion to become witnesses who share their true stories of the devastating effects of abortion through courts and legislatures. Operation Outcry holds the largest collection in the world of legally admissible, written testimonies from women hurt by abortion.

The Justice Foundation's **Center Against Forced Abortion (CAFA)** provides free legal resources and training for lawyers, police, school counselors, and pregnancy resource centers and direct legal help to mothers who are being unduly pressured, forced or coerced into an unwanted abortion. We estimate the Center's training, assistance and legal tools save between 1000-2000 mothers and babies annually.

**The Moral Outcry** is a ministry of The Justice Foundation providing free legal representation to Melinda Thybault and assistance to those who sign her nationwide petition asking the Supreme Court to reverse its abortion cases. This petition serves as a symbol of America's Moral Outcry against abortion. It will wake up the nation and galvanize the national conscience to end the scourge of abortion in America. Sign the petition at [www.themoraloutcry.com](http://www.themoraloutcry.com)

Allan Parker, President, was lead counsel for Norma McCorvey, formerly "Roe" of *Roe v. Wade*, from 2000 to 2012, and Sandra Cano, the "Doe" of *Doe v. Bolton*, until 2014 in their efforts to overturn the two landmark cases that brought legalized abortion on demand to America.

Mr. Parker received his J.D. degree with high honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 1979. He was an Associate Editor of the Texas Law Review, a Chancellor, Order of the Coif, and Order of Barristers for his outstanding advocacy skills. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Oklahoma with a B.A. in Economics in 1974.



March 2022

To: House Health & Insurance Committee  
Re: HB22-1279—RHEA-Reproductive Health Equity Act

Dear House Health & Insurance 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 advocacy, education and research.

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, **AAUW advocates for self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions.**

Colorado has long been a leader in women's reproductive rights. Time and again Colorado voters have turned back efforts to take away these rights. We can no longer depend on the Supreme Court to uphold Roe v Wade, and now is the time to codify our rights in Colorado law.

Colorado AAUW **strongly supports** HB22-1279 and requests a YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular border.

**Su Ryden**  
**AAUW Colorado Public Policy Co-Director**

16699 E. Kentucky Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80017  
303.898.5797  
[su@ryden.com](mailto:su@ryden.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.*

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this testimony as to why HB22-1279 is inhumane and should by no means be passed in the state of Colorado. I was 18 when I got pregnant with my daughter. I went to a local pregnancy center to take a pregnancy test and when the test came back positive, I was only given two options 1) surgical abortion 2) a pill form of abortion. I was not offered counseling. I was not asked if I would like to make a phone call. I was not asked if I wanted to call the babies father.... I was offered termination. I chose to keep my baby. She is now 16 and thriving. We did not have money and we did not have excess but we had each other. I made it through college with a bachelor's degree while working full time. I then got my first real full-time job and began working on a master's degree which I obtained in 3 years.

There are many people who are looking for adoption options and outreach programs to help women and men who were not expecting to become parents. There are also many individuals who will support this bill who have never faced an unplanned pregnancy. Who are they to say what "rights" women have to terminate another human life. Abortion is MURDER. It has been proven that life begins at conception. Those who support "Science" she do their research and they will quickly see that as soon as an egg is fertilized by sperm it becomes an individual being with a gender and personal DNA. Below are some reasons why stating that an embryo/fetus is not considered a baby are untrue:

- A mother can die and a fetus/embryo can survive and vice versa proving that the fetus/embryo is NOT just a part of a women. It is its own being. A body part is defined by the common genetic code it shares with the rest of its body; the unborn's genetic code differs from his or her mother's.
- Some will argue that an embryo/fetus is a product of conception; however, like a toddler and adolescent, the terms embryo and fetus do not refer to nonhumans, but to humans at particular stages of development.
- Prior to the earliest abortions, the unborn already has every body part he or she will ever have.
- Every abortion stops a beating heart and terminates measurable brain waves.
- Even in the earliest surgical abortions, the unborn child is clearly human in appearance.
- No matter how much better it sounds, "terminating a pregnancy" is still terminating a life. Or murdering someone.
- The right to live doesn't increase with age and size; otherwise toddlers and adolescents have less right to live than adults.
- Any civilized society restricts the individual's freedom to choose whenever that choice would harm an innocent person. The one-time choice of abortion robs someone else of a lifetime of choices and prevents him from ever exercising his rights.
- Too often "the right to control my life" becomes the right to hurt and oppress others for my own advantage.

- The father will often face serious grief and guilt as a result of abortion. Since his life will be significantly affected, shouldn't he have something to say about it?

If we are willing to approve taking the lives of unborn children without hesitation because they cannot "survive" on their own then where are the bills and laws that say we can kill the elderly? When is a child considered self-sufficient? Can we kill children all the way up to the age 18 because they cannot take care of themselves because they are not self-sufficient?

Please consider the boundaries that are being crossed by approving such a careless policy. We are starting to blur moral lines more than ever before. We must stand up for babies. We must save them. We must reconsider how we approach women facing unplanned pregnancies. We must reconsider what organizations are being funded. We must start counseling women and helping them versus giving them the option to murder.

Do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or for more information.

Jennifer Ulferts

719.321.1498

Jen.ulferts@gmail.com

Many babies have survived abortions. Abortion is the only “medical” procedure that, when it fails, a person survives. That alone should tell you all you need to know about the nature and aim of abortion. It’s goal is to stop a living human being from continuing to live. A clump of non living cells can not survive a procedure and suddenly become a living, functioning, autonomous human being. No, when an abortion fails, a baby is born alive. Which means, when an abortion accomplishes the goal, a baby that was alive mere moments ago is now dead.

And anyone who is honest with themselves, or honest enough to look up pictures of what aborted babies look like, knows this. There’s a reason that abortion providers and supporters don’t readily display what abortion looks like on their websites, protest signs or literature, but those of us on the pro-life side do. In fact, photos aren’t being allowed in the hearing today, and that is clearly by design. They don’t want you to see the horrifying reality of what they are doing and promoting. It’s much harder to call it a clump of cells when you see the tiny, mutilated, hands, feet and heads of pre-born children.

But how developed a baby is doesn’t matter. The truth is, from the moment of conception, a unique, living, developing, entity with its own human DNA is created. And that new person will continue to live and develop from that time on till natural death, if it is not snuffed out intentionally before then. So whether a baby survives a botched attempt at taking it’s life, or whether it tragically succumbs to the poison it’s given or the mutilation it’s subjected to, it is a human being with innate worth and a God given right to its own, individual life. You have the chance to stand against this despicable bill that will help end the lives of countless fellow human beings. Each of which you have sworn an oath to protect.

So please, I implore you to go look at the faces of aborted babies before putting your name to this bill. Please go watch interviews done by the people who survived abortions. These individuals are the surviving victims of what abortion really is and you owe it to them to hear their stories and see their faces and the scars they bare because of someone else’s choice to treat them as less than human. Please know that every one of us will be held accountable before God for what we did and did not do for the least of these, and God is very clear that He hates the hands that shed innocent blood. Thank you for you time today.

March 9, 2022

House Committee on Health & Insurance  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Chair Lontine, Vice Chair Ortiz, and distinguished Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Michael Belmonte, and I'm a practicing Obstetrician/Gynecologist in Colorado and a fellow with Physicians for Reproductive Health. In my practice, I provide full-spectrum reproductive health care, including abortion care, to patients in Colorado, but also from surrounding states, and more recently to patients from across the country, particularly from Texas. I write in strong support of HB22-1279: The Reproductive Health Equity Act. This bill would establish that every person has a fundamental right to choose or refuse the contraceptive method of their choice, that every person has a right to continue a pregnancy, give birth, or have an abortion, and that a fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of Colorado. It is essential that each of my patients is able to make the reproductive health care decisions that are best for them free from government interference. The right to comprehensive reproductive health care, specifically abortion care, has been under attack in Colorado and across the country.

I want this Committee to know that whether my patients are ready to build or create their families, already parenting, or focused on their education or career, all of them share something in common – they are making thoughtful, at times difficult, decisions about their health and well-being and they deserve high quality health care, including abortion care and contraception, regardless of who they are, their income, and where they live.

The state of Colorado and its people have time and time again acted to ensure that Coloradans have the right to maintain bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children they have in safe and sustainable communities. Colorado did so initially by being the first state to decriminalize abortion care in 1967 and more recently by rejecting the numerous legislative attacks and attempts to recriminalize abortion, limit peoples' access to contraception, eliminate comprehensive sexual education, or otherwise constrain full-spectrum reproductive health care. Colorado must continue to be a leader in this space and ensure that the many barriers facing not only Coloradans, but people forced to travel here, are able to get the essential care they need. Current barriers to health care access fall most heavily on Black people, Indigenous people, communities of color, people who are immigrants, young people, LGBTQ+ people, as well as those living in geographically isolated areas. The Reproductive Health Equity Act is an important step towards breaking down these barriers, by ensuring the right to continue a pregnancy, give birth, or have an abortion and by ensuring the right to access the full range of contraceptive methods.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), along with other medical societies, identifies abortion and contraception as essential health care services that require timely access to care. ACOG recognizes that the patient-physician relationship is essential to the provision of safe and quality medical care and should be protected from unnecessary

governmental intrusion.<sup>1</sup> HB22-1279 would protect the ability of physicians and patients to determine appropriate treatment options and have open, honest, and confidential communications, ultimately, allowing providers like myself, to use their medical judgement when caring for patients.

It is important to recognize that abortion care is extremely safe, and everyone should have access to this care. In fact, in 2018, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) published a comprehensive study affirming the safety record of abortion and pointed out that the biggest threat to patient safety is the litany of medically unnecessary abortion regulations that raise costs and delay procedures, ultimately putting patients' health at risk.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, other studies, like the Turnaway Study, have shown that women who were denied abortion care are more likely to experience high blood pressure and other serious medical conditions during the end of pregnancy; more likely to remain in relationships where interpersonal violence is present; and more likely to experience poverty.<sup>3</sup> Research shows that states with higher numbers of abortion restrictions are the same states with poorer maternal health outcomes.<sup>4</sup> And we also know that while most people will have healthy pregnancies, some will experience illnesses or conditions where pregnancy can cause serious problems or worsen existing health conditions. When abortion is made all but impossible to access, complicated health conditions can worsen and even result in death. The Reproductive Health Equity Act is an opportunity for Colorado to ensure everyone is able to access the type of health care they need when they need it, and make the decisions that are best for themselves and their families.

Members of this Committee have an opportunity to ensure law and policy is based in sound science and medical evidence. Through the Reproductive Health Equity Act, we can achieve a future where equitable access to reproductive health care is available to every Coloradan.

I strongly urge you to support HB22-1279.

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<sup>1</sup> American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee Opinion 815, "Increasing Access to Abortion." December 2020. Available at <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committeeopinion/articles/2020/12/increasing-access-to-abortion>.

<sup>2</sup> National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The safety and quality of abortion care in the United States. Washington DC; National Academies Press; 2018. Available at <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24950/thesafety-and-quality-of-abortion-care-in-the-united-states>.

<sup>3</sup>The Harms of Denying a Woman a Wanted Abortion. Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health. University of California at San Francisco. Available at [https://www.ansirh.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/the\\_harms\\_of\\_denying\\_a\\_woman\\_a\\_wanted\\_abortion\\_4-16-2020.pdf](https://www.ansirh.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/the_harms_of_denying_a_woman_a_wanted_abortion_4-16-2020.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Evaluating Priorities. Measuring Women's and Children's Health and Well-being Against Abortion Restrictions in the States. Center for Reproductive Rights and Ibis Reproductive Health 2017. Available at <https://www.reproductiverights.org/sites/default/files/documents/USPA-Ibis-Evaluating-Priorities-v2.pdf>.



Testimony in Opposition to HB22-1279

As citizens of the United States of America we are endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness. I am testifying against this Bill because it takes away that very right to life from vulnerable unborn Americans. The constitution guarantees ALL American's the right to LIFE. It is the job of this government to protect and defend our rights! We ask that you vote against this bill as it will lead to more destruction of life and that you institute legislation that will protect life from its conception so that in time we can restore to this nation the value of life and live in a country where that unalienable right to LIFE is defended & protected by our government.

Health clinics should not destroy life, they should protect it. These crimes that have been committed are murder and this government declares murder is illegal. it is impossible for abortion to be allowed and murder to be illegal. We now KNOW that life begins at conception. This is the science, it is not a debate.

The American College of Pediatricians says this- When Human Life Begins - March 2017 ABSTRACT: The predominance of human biological research confirms that human life begins at conception—fertilization. At fertilization, the human being emerges as a whole, genetically distinct, individuated zygotic living human organism, a member of the species Homo sapiens, needing only the proper environment in order to grow and develop. The difference between the individual in its adult stage and in its zygotic stage is one of form, not nature. This statement focuses on the scientific evidence of when an individual human life begins.

The pain we are inflicting on mothers that are allowed to commit these acts are lifelong, including depression, mental illness and guilt and shame that plague them forever and the government needs to apologize to them and to tell them there is forgiveness & redemption & provide counseling & healing for them. This government also needs to apologize for miss guiding and leading so many women down a path that has lead this nation to a place of death, anger, guilt & mental instability. They need love & forgiveness & not guilt & shame.

There is no amount of money that can reconcile the loss of life & emotional damage to this nation. The devaluation of life since Roe v. Wade has I believe directly contributed to this nations decline, as we can see in evidence in the mass shootings (we used guns in our battle for independence—never in our early history did we turn them on our own, the mental & moral decline of this nation is what turned guns into mass shooting weapons) & the suicide rate & the mental state of our nation (as is noted by ER's full & police officers overwhelmed by mental patients are just a few of the indicators). Where life is not valued & protected people literally perish physically, mentally & emotionally. For Americans it is time we drawn a line and reclaim the right to "life" for everyone. It is right. Right is not always easy but it is the job of our government to guarantee & defend this right & they have failed to do that.

Roe v. Wade was 1973, mass shootings began in 1984 and have escalated since. This moral & mental devastation has to stop & restoration of our right to life is where we have to begin.

My heart breaks for this nation & all the life lost. We can make a different tomorrow for our children starting today. PLEASE VOTE NO ON HB22-1279

Facts-

The Declaration of Independence proclaims as a self-evident truth the First Principle that "all men are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights; that among these are LIFE, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The Declaration commands the people to "alter or to abolish" any government when it becomes destructive and fails the people. It is important because it reminds us it is the responsibility of the citizen to take part in the government. It also reminds us the reasons the United States separated from England.

Direct quote- Declaration of Independence-That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

It is appalling to continue to see the members of our state legislature promoting the killing of the unborn.

The innocent blood shed of over 60 million babies in our country has not gone without serious ills to our nation. A nation that has forgotten the very fundamentals that it was founded on.

May God help us, as many continue to pray for justice for the unborn. He sees all and knows the hearts of men and those who are against the lives He has created.

From: Bernadette K Pfeiffenberger, Registered voter in Denver, Colorado

Notes- American College of Pediatrics-

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When Human Life Begins

American College of Pediatricians - March 2017

ABSTRACT: The predominance of human biological research confirms that human life begins at conception-fertilization. At fertilization, the human being emerges as a whole, genetically distinct, individuated zygotic living human organism, a member of the species Homo sapiens, needing only the proper environment in order to grow and develop. The difference between the individual in its adult stage and in its zygotic stage is one of form, not nature. This statement focuses on the scientific evidence of when an individual human life begins.





Writtne Testimony against passing HB22-1279bc0001 to: committees.lcs.ga 03/09/2022  
09:51 AMPlease respond to bc0001

Dear Committee,

My name is William Chandler from Woodland Park, Colorado.  
I wanted to let you know that my wife Frances and I are both opposed to the proposed  
Abortion Rights Bill; HB22-1279.

We cannot and will not support legislators that vote for that bill.

I hope the committee will stand with us against this shameful, and radical bill.

Only God should be able to define when a person is a person, not politicians, nor  
those who support or want the freedom to engage in sexual conduct without consequences or  
taking responsibility for what they do with their own bodies.

Because, lets be honest, that is what abortion rights is really all about.  
Free to live with no self control, with no desire to take responsibility for lack thereof.

Abortion is the destruction of human life.

The tiny baby in the womb is Human (it cannot possibly be anything but human, created from 2  
humans)

And the baby is living (otherwise there would be no need to abort, right?)

That is the definition of Human Life.

We should not be terminating a human life that had nothing to do with her or his life in the womb.

Let us all stand with God and understand that He deems life in the womb precious and has a plan  
for

every little one no matter how their life was conceived.

Psalm 139:13-16

Thanks and Regards,  
Bill and Frances Chandler

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**HOUSE BILL 22-1279**

**March 9, 2022**

**Prepared Testimony of  
Professor Teresa Stanton Collett\***

Thank you, Madame Chair. My name is Teresa Stanton Collett and I am a professor of law and director of the ProLife Center at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where I teach constitutional litigation, property law, and other related courses. I have published numerous articles on the regulation of abortion and authored several amicus curiae briefs on behalf of public officials in cases before the United States Supreme Court, federal courts of appeals, and state supreme courts.

In the past twenty-six years, I have assisted state and federal legislators in evaluating abortion-related legislation and testified before Congressional and state legislative committees. I also have had the privilege of defending state laws protecting the safety and well-being of women and girls seeking abortions as special assistant attorney general or special counsel in Kansas and Oklahoma. I also worked closely with then New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte in her successful defense of the state's parental notification through the federal district court through the United States Supreme Court. Most recently I represented South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem, 239 other professional woman and scholars, and seven prolife feminist organizations in their amicus brief before the United States Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*.

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\* Professor of Law, University of St. Thomas School of Law, MSL 400, 1000 LaSalle Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403-2015, telephone 651-962-4973, fax (651) 962-4996, email [tscollett@stthomas.edu](mailto:tscollett@stthomas.edu).

My testimony today represents my views as an expert in the area of abortion regulation and is not intended to represent the views of my employer, the University of St. Thomas, or any other organization or person.

It is my opinion that the deceptively named “Reproductive Health Equity Act” is unnecessary, dangerously overbroad, and will rob parents of their right to know important medical information regarding their minor children as well as strip welcoming parents of their legal right to justice when their unborn child is killed by violent criminals, drunk drivers, and reckless or negligent doctors.

In my brief time before this committee, I would like to make four key points regarding HB 22-1279: 1) abortion ends the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being;<sup>1</sup> 2) as written the will Act deny parents knowledge of their children’s intentions to seek sterilization (whether chemical or surgical); obtain contraceptive devices and medications, as well as abortion, while continuing to impose upon parents a legal duty to seek and obtain appropriate medical care if any of these secret treatments or procedures result in any harm to their children; 3) as written, the Act will deny parents the ability to recover for the wrong death or injuries of their unborn child due to criminal or negligent acts of others; and 4) the Act removes abortion from important regulations protecting women’s health. While the abortion industry and its representatives may call this equitable, I suspect most Coloradans will not.

**1. Abortion ends the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being.**

In 2005 the State of North Dakota, based on extensive legislative hearings, passed S.D.C.L. § 34-23A-10.1.7 requiring that prior to abortion the performing physician provide certain information to the patient as part of obtaining informed consent. Included in the required

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<sup>1</sup> *Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota v. Rounds*, 530 F.3d 724, 735–36 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008) (*en banc*).

information was the statement at “abortion will terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being.” This requirement was challenged by the abortion industry’s representative, Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, in part on the basis that requiring such a statement would violate physicians free speech rights “by compelling them to deliver the State’s ideological message, rather than truthful and non-misleading information relevant to informed consent to abortion.”<sup>2</sup>

After an *en banc* hearing, a majority of the Court of Appeals for the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit concluded that “The State’s evidence suggests that the biological sense in which the embryo or fetus is whole, separate, unique and living should be clear in context to a physician, (citation omitted) and Planned Parenthood submitted no evidence to oppose that conclusion.”<sup>3</sup>

2. **The Act challenges parents right to knowledge of their children’s intentions to seek sterilization (whether chemical or surgical); obtain contraceptive devices and medications, as well as abortion.**

“Parents have a fundamental right to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children.” *In re L.F.*, 121 P3d 267, 270 (Colo App 2005). In arriving at this decision, the Colorado court relied upon the U.S. Supreme Court’s interpretation of the due process clause of the U.S. Constitution in *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000). In *Troxel*, the Court noted that “[T]he liberty interest at issue in this case—the interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children—is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by this Court.”<sup>4</sup>

Parental consultation is critical for minors considering abortion because “minors often lack the experience, perspective, and judgment to recognize and avoid choices that could be detrimental

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<sup>2</sup> Id. at 727.

<sup>3</sup> Id. at 736.

<sup>4</sup> Troxell, at 65.

to them.”<sup>5</sup> In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, Justices O’Connor, Kennedy, and Souter observed that parental consent and notification laws “are based on the quite reasonable assumption that minors will benefit from consultation with their parents and that children will often not realize that their parents have their best interests at heart.”<sup>6</sup>

Parental involvement laws have been associated nationwide with a reduction in pregnancy, abortion, and out-of-wedlock births of minors. Yet, given the structure and sweep of the bill, H.B. 22-1279 would effectively overturn Colorado’s parental notice law. When asked if this would be the effect of the Act, the sponsors deferred to lawyers working for the abortion industry. Those lawyers each sought to assure members of this committee that the bill would not have that impact because, they explained, parental notification does not restrict the minor’s access to abortion since it only requires notice and not consent. Yet neither the Bill, its sponsors, nor a single supporting witness offered any definition of “restrict.” According to the Oxford English Dictionary (3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2022), restrict may mean “[t]o limit (a person or thing); to confine *to* or *within* certain limits” or it may mean “[t]o prohibit or prevent *from*.” While supporting witness Ms. Counsel (sp?) is correct that Colorado parents can not legally veto their daughters’ decision to obtain an abortion, there is no language or context in the bill supporting her argument that it would only invalidate laws that “restrict” in the sense of prohibiting.

Even if we were to accept the witness’ interpretation as legally binding, the bill describes prohibited laws and actions more broadly. Section 25-6-404(a) uses the phrase, “RESTRICT, INTERFERE WITH, OR DISCRIMINATE AGAINST”. Abortion activists regularly claim that

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<sup>5</sup> *Bellotti v. Baird (Bellotti II)*, 443 U.S. 622, 635 (1979) (plurality opinion).

<sup>6</sup> 505 U.S. 833, 895 (1992) (plurality opinion).

parental involvements laws “restrict” minors’ rights to abortion.<sup>7</sup> They also claim that such laws unfairly “discriminate” against teens who choose abortion when compared with teens who choose to carry their children to term.<sup>8</sup>

Section 25-6-405 (2) introduces a fourth prohibited legal impact. It provides “Nothing in this part 4 may be construed to authorize a public entity to burden an individual’s fundamental rights relating to reproductive health care.” Absent statutory definitions, it is impossible to know whether any particular “STATE AND LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES, POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REGULATORY GUIDELINES AND RULES, PRACTICES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION” restricts, interferes with, discriminates against, or burdens an individual’s reproductive health rights.

**3. The Act will deny parents the ability to recover for the wrong death or injuries of their unborn child due to criminal or negligent acts of others.**

Section 25-6-403(3) provides that “A FERTILIZED EGG, EMBRYO, OR FETUS DOES NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT OR DERIVATIVE RIGHTS UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE.” This section will lead to criminals and negligent or reckless defendants contest the existing right of Colorado newborn to seek damages for prenatal injuries, regardless of when the injuries are inflicted. Such defendants will also resist claims of wrongful death of a viable unborn child. Both of these claims are currently recognized under Colorado law. The right to damages for prenatal injuries and wrongful death are predicated on a duty of care the law imposes on persons with respect to unborn children.

Under existing Colorado law, a cause of action for (non-lethal) prenatal injuries may be brought regardless of the stage of pregnancy when the injury is inflicted. That is the necessary implication of the

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<sup>7</sup> E.g. ACLU, LAWS RESTRICTING TEENAGERS' ACCESS TO ABORTION at <https://www.aclu.org/other/laws-restricting-teenagers-access-abortion> (criticizing parental involvement laws).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* (“These Laws Unfairly Single Out Those Pregnant Teens Who Choose Abortion”)

Colorado Supreme Court's recognition of a cause of action for a pre-conception tort. See *Empire Casualty Co. v. St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Co.*, 764 P.2d 1191, 1195-97 (Colo. 1988). And, under Colorado's wrongful death statute, Colo. Rev. Stat. Sec. 13-21-201, a cause of action may be brought for the wrongful death of an unborn child if the child was viable at the time of the injury causing its death (in the case of a stillbirth) or for the wrongful death of an unborn child at any stage of pregnancy if the child was born alive, then died as the result of a prenatal injury. This is all explained in a decision of the Colorado Court of Appeals, *Gonzales v. Mascarenas*, 190 P.3d 826 (Colo. Ct. App. 2008).

Section 25-6-403(3) would abrogate these rights for redress for children's prenatal injuries or wrongful deaths.

**4. The Bill removes abortion from important regulations protecting women's health.**

As many witnesses supporting the Bill testified, abortion is largely unrestricted in Colorado. It is one of the few states that has clinics offering abortions throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy. In 2020, according to the Colorado Department of Health, 258 children were aborted at or after 21-weeks gestation. Yet late-term abortions are more dangerous than carrying a child to term. The maternal mortality risk of abortion at or after twenty-one weeks is more than 9 maternal deaths per 100,000 abortions, compared with about 7.5 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births as reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. In the face of this fact, performance of such abortions by physicians only is both reasonable and desirable. Yet, an entirely plausible reading of H.B. 22-1279, particularly § 25-6-405(2), would suggest that any law prohibiting non-physicians from performing abortions would be invalid. Prohibiting non-physicians from performing abortions could be viewed as "BURDEN[ING] AN INDIVIDUAL'S FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS RELATING TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE."

Thank you, Madame Chair, for allowing me to appear before the committee.



Citizen Remark to COL Committees: HB22-1279.cynthia boulderhealingtouch.com  
 03/08/2022 05:31 PM To: LCS Committees  
 Cc: "meg.froelich.house@state.co.us", "daneya.esgar.house@state.co.us",  
 "jullie.gonzales.senate@state.co.us"

Dear Members of the State Legislature,

I implore you not to make Colorado the country's center for abortions by passing this horrific bill, which will help destroy the moral fabric of Colorado. I believe that legislation to support abortion is a Marxist agenda and abhorred by God. I used to be a Democrat and very accepting of abortion UNTIL I learned about how the first, second and third trimester abortions were done, which sickened me and woke me up to what abortion really is....torture and murder of innocent lives.

**As a psychotherapist for over 40 years, I have worked with many women who have regretted making the abortion decision. What at the time seemed like a "good idea" for "practical reasons" (usually out of fear or feeling lack of support) ended up resulting in living with years of remorse, regret, sadness and guilt. In some cases, it led to a worsening of their psyche, and in some cases, it brought them closer to God and a renewed spiritual life because they experienced and realized the error of their ways.**

I stand with my friend Bill DeOreo's statements:

*Leaving aside the immorality of abortion, especially late term abortions, which is undeniable, abortions of the kind you are considering are racists, misogynistic, and are part of a plan to depopulate the country. Minority women receive a disproportionate number of abortions, which was one of Margaret Sanger's goals when she founded planned parenthood. Margaret was an avid eugenicist, and a favorite of the Nazi racial "scientists". More girls than boys are aborted, as the Chinese have discovered after a full generation of abortion promotion, and abortions destroy the demographics of the society. Again, China has too few young people and especially too few women, to keep their economy going. Once birth rates fall below replacement levels it is hard to recover. Despite what you may have been told, the United States is heading for a population cliff, where we will be going down the trail the Chinese have blazed for us. We can never retrieve the thousands of children that are lost to abortion each week, and our population will gradually become senile and decrepit, relying on imported people from the third world to take care of us in our dotage. We can not allow this to happen.*

*The democratic party is already branded with a love for authoritarianism, vaccine mandates and passports, lockdowns and emergency powers. I suggest you not allow the party to become the party of mass infanticide. I urge you personally not to associate yourselves with it either. If you must abort something, make it HB22-1279.*

Please let me know you received this. Thank you. I am going to encourage my Christian and morally-oriented friends to contact you as well.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dr Cynthia Hutchison  
 4683 16<sup>th</sup> St  
 Boulder, CO. 80304  
 720.314.6033

Cynthia



**Cynthia Hutchison**, DNSc, RN, MSN, CNS, HTCP/I  
[cynthia@boulderhealingtouch.com](mailto:cynthia@boulderhealingtouch.com)  
(303) 440-9181  
[www.BoulderHealingTouch.com](http://www.BoulderHealingTouch.com)  
[www.HealingTouchProgram.com](http://www.HealingTouchProgram.com)



Unable to "SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY"DEBORAH HARNEY to:  
committees.lcs.ga@state.co.us 03/08/2022 10:41 PM

Here it is:

In the Bible story of Joseph and Mary fleeing to Egypt because Herod felt so threatened that his thirst for power extended to trying to kill the baby of this poor family, we can see the image of HB22-1279 as in a mirror. Any culture or nation that so greatly fears an unborn child and prioritizes killing the child in the womb as "health care" -- rather than helping the prospective mother bring the child to term for adoption or to parent -- has lost its moral compass.

The old folk song asks the question, "*Where Have All the Flowers Gone?*" That can be updated to "*Where Have All the Children Gone?*" "*Gone to Medical Waste Containers Everyone*" is the answer. In Colorado, even the lives of viable babies, who the empty arms of adoptive parents would have gladly cradled and loved are ended when they might have lived.

When this is how a culture, a nation, treats LIFE -- that jobs, careers, positions are more important -- it teaches a lesson that is subliminally absorbed and shows itself in increasing unhealthy and unhappy conditions among the populace, just a few: depression, detachment disorders, hopelessness, inability to connect to people, suicide and lack of empathy. What are the consequences when unborn humans, frail, poor, and elderly, Downs syndrome and others are not valued? If LIFE itself is not valued and is disposable, there will never be peace because peace comes about through what we value.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta described the consequences best:

"By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems. And, by abortion, that father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. The father is likely to put other women into the same trouble. So abortion just leads to more abortion. Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion."

Deborah Harney  
719-650-9863  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

## STATEMENT

of

Warren M. Hern, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.

Director, Boulder Abortion Clinic, P.C.

1130 Alpine Avenue Boulder, Colorado 80304

303 447-1361 bachern@msn.com

[www.drhern.com](http://www.drhern.com)

RE: HB 22-1279

Reproductive Health Equity Act

Safe abortion is an essential and fundamental component of women's health care now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in Colorado, and in the United States

Colorado led the nation in 1967 by adopting the first abortion reform law in the United States. Other states followed. In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the Roe v. Wade and the Doe v. Bolton decisions. Since then, more than 60 million abortions have been performed in the United States. The result is one of the outstanding public health successes in the history of medicine. Deaths among women due to abortion have dropped dramatically, and deaths due to unsafe, illegal abortion are now almost zero. They are not zero because the continuing assault on women's reproductive health and reproductive freedom in the United States by a radical right-wing political and religious movement that has succeeded in many states in virtually eliminating access to this essential component of women's health care.

As a physician specializing in outpatient abortion services in Colorado since 1973, I have helped thousands of Colorado women end their pregnancies safely, and I have strongly supported efforts by my medical colleagues in Colorado to do the same. Colorado is now one of the few places in the United States where women have full access to safe medical care to terminate pregnancies.

Over the past 48 years of offering this assistance to Colorado women, I have spoken with and cared for literally tens of thousands of women in my office, and they have been clear about their needs for this specialized medical care including those who have desired pregnancies afflicted with serious medical problems. Their physicians refer them to me and my staff for this care. These problems may include acute or chronic medical conditions being experienced by the woman whose pregnancy aggravates these problems that threaten her life, and they include the discovery late in pregnancy of catastrophic abnormalities in the fetus that are not compatible with survival. These are complex medical issues overlaid by social and emotional aspects that demand careful individual attention.

Throughout the United States, authoritarian political forces are eliminating access to abortion services at great cost to the lives of women who need them. These same forces are eliminating or drastically reducing women's access to other components of reproductive health care. If these forces succeed in capturing control of the Colorado state government, we can expect the same thing to happen here.

The Reproductive Health Equity Act, HB22-1279, is essential legislation to protect women's health and to protect the freedom of women to make decisions about their own lives and health. I strongly support it and recommend that it be passed immediately by the Colorado General Assembly and signed into the law by the governor of Colorado.

House Health & Insurance  
 03/09/2022 01:30 PM  
 HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act  
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Virginia Gebhart For Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care	<p>Please vote yes to pass this bill. If enacted it will provide peace of mind to health care providers and patients alike. Health care professionals will be able to provide care and patients will be able to seek care without fear of interference from outsiders. The most personal and private health care decisions will remain private.</p> <p>Please vote yes to pass this bill so that individuals will retain dominion over their own bodies and lives. These freedoms must be retained for all individuals, including those who have historically been abused or underserved within the American Medical Industrial Complex.</p> <p>Please vote yes to pass this bill. Providing appropriate health care to all individuals is good for individuals and good for the community and nation.</p>
Jerry Nelson Against Self	<p>Please vote "NO." To deny an independent human being the "right" to be born is even more egregiously evil than the denial of full humanity to so many "people of color" in an earlier century. By every scientific measure, the unborn fetus is an independent being, not a part of the mother's body, and dependent on her only to the same degree as after birth. If we call it criminal to kill the baby one month after birth, by what logic would we consider it less criminal one month before birth? Please vote "NO."</p>
Thomas Jensen Against Self	<p>Dear Members of the Health and Insurance Committee,            I am writing as both a physician-scientist, parent writing against Reproductive Health Equity Act.</p> <p>As a physician, I take pride assisting my patients who are pregnant to ensure they receive the best health care possible for them and their child. This includes ensuring certain medications that will not lead for instance to an increased risk of birth defects or pregnancy related complications as well as treating endocrinological conditions to improve outcomes for moms and their babies. These actions as a healthcare provider to ensure the health of both therefore show in the healthcare community we give value to the life inside the mother, not just the mother only. Even new technologies today have been done on preborn children and here in Colorado we have world leading team that does these procedures. On their website they state "fetal surgery utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to diagnosing and treating a number of fetal health conditions or complications that develop during pregnancy. This kind of surgery requires expertise and state-of-the-art technology to ensure the best possible outcomes for both mom and her unborn baby. At the Colorado Fetal Care Center at Children's Hospital Colorado, we offer world-class</p>

	<p>open fetal surgery catered to each specific patient.” The Colorado Fetal Care Center recognizes the unborn child as a patient. Hence, by this law which states the fetus has absolutely no rights, you run counter and devalue this great work that we as healthcare providers recognize.</p> <p>Finally as a parent, my concern over the complete removal of parental rights in healthcare decisions or even notifications. In Colorado, Planned Parenthood here in Denver was caught failing to report abuse of a 13 year old girl, despite putting her age down, and returned her to her step father in 2012. Court papers reveal that the stepfather, who also wanted the girl to be given a form of birth control she did not want, was sexually abusing her. The girl’s mother later discovered the abuse and reported the perpetrator to law enforcement. She testified that Planned Parenthood did not notify her of her daughter’s abortion, as they are required under Colorado law. Hence parental notification is important in helping to deter ongoing sexual abuse.</p>
<p>Warren Jaeger Against Self</p>	<p>March 7, 2022</p> <p>SUBJECT: HB 22-1279</p> <p>TO: Colorado General Assembly House Health and Insurance Committee</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to HB 22-1279. This bill codifies the right to abortion at any stage of pregnancy, up to the moment of birth, for any reason (or for no reason at all). This is a direct assault on the value of preborn human life. Yes, preborn human life IS human life, genetically distinct from either the mother or father. To state otherwise requires rather profound bioethical gymnastics. Every pregnancy involves three human lives – the mother, the father, and the preborn. Despite using “Health” and “Equity” in its title, HB 22-1279 states that a “fertilized egg” (zygote), “embryo”, or “fetus” has no rights whatsoever. These terms are, in fact, not references to some “non human” or “prehuman” existence, but to normal stages of prenatal development, just as “neonate”, “infant”, “child”, and “adolescent” apply to stages of development following birth.</p> <p>Before you vote on HB 22-1279, I would encourage each member to view an abortion procedure first hand, as I was required to do early in my medical training. At that time, the most common abortion procedures were suction D &amp; C (for early pregnancies) or intrauterine saline injection (for more advanced pregnancies). My duties were to examine the “products of conception” (fetal body parts) in the suction container, in the case of a suction D &amp; C, or to examine the fully formed scalded (by the saline) lifeless body of the fetus, in the case if a saline injection, to assure that the abortion was “complete”. More current</p>

	<p>abortion procedures, such as dismemberment abortion or partial birth abortion, would be even more gruesome. If you cannot, or will not, view an abortion procedure, please view a 4 D pregnancy ultrasound to see what intrauterine life looks like.</p> <p>One appropriate role of laws in our society is to protect the rights of the weak and helpless from the loud and powerful. The unborn – the smallest and least powerful among us – deserve our protection. I am saddened that HB 22-1279 offers no recognition nor protection of preborn human life. In fact, it does just the opposite.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Warren P. Jaeger, MD, FAAFP</p>
<p>MaryEllen Swafford Against Self</p>	<p>To the Health House and Insurance Committee, RE:Reproductive health and Equity Act</p> <p>I am strongly AGAINST this bill you are trying to pass. I am speaking up for the unborn that can not speak for themselves. Abortion is murder plain and simple. If someone decided they did not want any of you around and they took your life they would go to prison for murder. Everyone's life is important and ordained by God himself. It plainly says in the Bible (yes I am one of those) that God knows us before we are even born and HE personally knits us together in our Mothers womb. We don't get the right or choice to take that life.</p> <p>So once again I say with every fiber of my being I am AGAINST this bill and am very saddened that you all think this is even remotely ok to do to an innocent life!</p> <p>Thank You, MaryEllen Swafford</p>
<p>Trina Konrath Against Self</p>	<p>Please do not support HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA). It's too radical for Colorado. I have a dear friend who when she was pregnant three doctors insisted that she have an abortion. She found one doctor who said he would help her along with her pregnancy. Her son is now 21! Perfectly healthy! It would be a tragedy if this young man had been aborted. Please do not support this.</p>
<p>Sheila Ryan Against Self</p>	<p>Please look into your heart ! Ending a human life at any stage is wrong ! It's a baby !!! A culture that kills their own offspring is doomed !!</p>
<p>Laura Davis Against Self</p>	<p>In section 1 subsection (f) the bill states "Colorado voters have demonstrated that they trust individuals to make their own ethical decisions about abortion care based on what is best for their health and their families." Therefore, for consistency and general public acceptance of this modification to Colorado law, this bill should be brought before the general public as a vote, not enacted behind closed doors with no regard to public opinion.</p> <p>Section 2. 25-6-403.(3) "A FERTILIZED EGG, EMBRYO, OR FETUS DOES NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT OR DERIVATIVE RIGHTS UNDER</p>

	<p>THE LAWS OF THIS STATE." This is an absolute travesty that will prevent the proper prosecution of offenders that cause the death of an unborn child. CO Rev Stat § 18-3.5-104 (2017) states that "(1) A person commits the offense of unlawful termination of pregnancy in the second degree if the person knowingly causes the unlawful termination of the pregnancy of a woman.</p> <p>(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), unlawful termination of pregnancy in the second degree is a class 4 felony." As this law demonstrates, in some form, Colorado law has recognized the value of an unborn child even if it has not outright stated that they have their own rights and personhood under the law. In effect, this bill would undermine the proper prosecution of criminal acts against women by the outlandish statement that Colorado law provides no protection whatsoever to the unborn.</p>
<p>Michelle Duft Against Self</p>	<p>This legislation attempts to secure the assumed "right" of a mother, yet specifically DENIES the life and humanity of a baby in whatever stages of pregnancy, even up until the moment of birth when it is obvious that the child is fully formed and ALIVE beyond any doubt or definition. The bill suggests that women have "fundamental" rights, but the fetus growing within them has none and isn't legally worthy of protection under the law.</p> <p>This is merely an attempt to preemptively secure legislation in our state that allows for the "justifiable" termination of life, and necessarily includes the potential dismemberment and subsequent disposal of often fully formed babies as "waste", and quite probably, the dissection of body parts of unborn babies with a heartbeat, who may even be fully capable of life outside the womb, and may potentially be prepared for sale in the name of science or medicine, even when only hours away from birth. One cannot truly justify late term abortions, when only days, or weeks later, outside of the womb, a "fetus" is now considered alive and protectable to the full extent of the law. These practices are a stain on our entire nation. Millions of America's children have been sacrificed on the altar of abortion for the sake of a mother's fears or convenience, and for the ultimate profit of abortion giants who have deep pockets, and strong political pull. Politicians support and tolerate abortion because lobbyists and outspoken feminists have decided to define what is best. None of these seem to wince at the exploitation of the unborn. This nation and it's government was formed to protect and defend inalienable rights, which include the right to live! Fundamental rights are for EVERY individual-- especially the helpless and even the unborn! Just because a baby hasn't taken a first breath, or isn't wanted by it's mother, we should deny their rights? These excuses would NEVER justify child abandonment or abuse of an older child. We spend so much time in recognizing children's rights, animal rights, and human rights of all kinds, how can a human life with blood flow, brain activity, heartbeat, and motion be dismissed merely because it is temporarily</p>

	<p>dependent on it's mother to sustain it's life. There are many other options to these women which are not even explored because of the blood lust of organizations like Planned Parenthood. I ask you to stand up for those who cannot stand for themselves, and reject this legislation.</p>
<p>Margarita Nelson Against Self</p>	<p>It is scientific fact that a human begins forming from the moment of conception. A baby is a miracle and should be protected. Abortion is a barbaric and heinous act against a human. Many, many women who have abortions suffer emotionally and mentally for years. I urge you to not defend abortion.</p>
<p>Kerry Hernandez Against Self</p>	<p>I would like to urge this committee to vote against the radical and racist bill HB22-1279. You might be asking yourselves why I say racist. It is because the radical groups wanting to pass this bill are the same groups trying to shove late term abortion down our throats. My family is half White, half Hispanic. Every time a Hispanic woman in my family gets pregnant, she gets bombarded with literature and fliers about abortion, especially late term abortion. This happened to me too because my last name is Hispanic. Although interestingly, it never happened to me when I was pregnant with a white last name. I find this highly offensive and painful. It is a statistical known fact that far more abortions happen in Hispanic and black families than in white families in Colorado. You know why? Because the groups pushing this bill are constantly telling Hispanic and Black women that they can't raise their babies as well as white women can! They target them telling them they aren't as competent as white women are! The women in my family talk about this and it makes us all feel sad. This bill is nothing more than another attempt at ethnic cleansing in our state disguised as women's rights! This is why these groups are pressuring the Hispanic women to slaughter their babies all of the time! This bill will work to further destroy Hispanic families in Colorado. I don't mean any disrespect to this committee. But if you vote on this bill, I believe the blood of our slaughtered Hispanic babies is on your hands and all the pain it inflicts on our families is too! Three of my children are half-Hispanic and I was pressured to abort all three by these groups. Thankfully, I did not listen! This bill will further empower, not women, but these high pressure groups to continue badgering the Hispanic women in my circle of family and friends telling them that their babies are just trash! We are tired of that! Rather than voting for bills that will result in the derailing of more Hispanic women and the slaughter of their babies, I would like to see you vote for better bills that encourage and empower Hispanic women that they can successfully raise their children and their families. I would like to also add that this bill would further remove protections on women and girls who are forced into abortion or pressured against their will. This happens far too often in our state. I pray that you will do the right thing and vote against this bill. Thank you, Kerry Hernandez</p>
<p>Chester Malouf Against Self</p>	<p>HB22-1279 and bills that are brought up before the committee of such likes is something sonorous that shouldn't even need to be debated. When did the murdering of a child in the mother's womb become Healthcare? When did death become Healthcare? And how come the</p>

	<p>child doesn't have a right or a say in the matter. This is why we speak for The Unborn child, because they can't speak or defend their selves. At all stages a pregnancy from the time of conception to the time of delivery that child should have the same protection under the law for the right to life liberty and pursuit for happiness and not denied protection under the law. Whoever sheds man's blood so shall his blood be shed. This is a truth called capital punishment. This was designed for lawlessness and the lawbreakers who murder and shed innocent blood. And the lawbreakers are the ones that are shedding the innocent blood of a child in the mother's womb. This bill should be voted down. It is a bill that condemns be innocent, and a quits the guilty. There is no equality in this bill for the unborn child. Remember the committee is in charge of setting righteous standards. And this bill is an unrighteous standard. The committee is to judge rightly and righteously, and if not remember this. It is written the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against the ungodly and the unrighteous who suppress the truth. It is bills like these if past that is going to bring God's Wrath on America!</p>
<p>Patricia Gardiner Against Self</p>	<p>PLEASE VOTE NO - ASK BEFORE ACTING, RESPECT THE VOICE OF COLORADO RESIDENTS</p> <p>I have been a resident of Colorado since 1968. I have been proud of the respect shown in Colorado for the voice of its people. ASK then act has been the way Colorado handles major issues. We demonstrate that through the requirements we have concerning tax increases. We encourage new ideas and fresh faces to be part of our governance. We demonstrate that through our term limit requirements.</p> <p>This bill does not exhibit this kind of respect. Instead, by having the legislature &amp; governor make such a major healthcare law it disregards the will of the people who live here by not even ASKING if this is what we want.</p> <p>Major issues, like this, should be put on the ballot and voted on by all who call Colorado home. When this is not done, it divides us. Colorado residents respect the will of a majority our fellow residents, even when we don't agree on the issue. A fine example of this was legalizing marijuana. This was a hotly contested issue. We voted &amp; marijuana was legalized. We have accepted the results &amp; united on handling the results, both good &amp; bad, that came with that decision.</p> <p>Colorado was once a fairly traditional, or conservative, state. We are now a mix of traditional and progressive ideas. Notice I said we are a "mix". That means we still discuss our viewpoints &amp; listen to others, we are not divided. However, that open discourse is hanging on by a thread. Making this law, without hearing from Colorado residents, will be very harmful to the unity still exists.</p>

	<p>This is not an urgent health crisis. A lot has changed since the last election, but not in this area of women’s healthcare. Concern about a Supreme Court decision does not equate to an urgent healthcare crisis that requires action without first hearing from the people.</p> <p>If you are concerned, raise your concerns with the people who elect you. Make this part of your election platform. Raise public awareness. DO NOT just push through a law without doing the work of gathering support first. We have enough dividers in our country, don’t add to that. Please, be a uniter, Colorado needs more of them.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Trish Gardiner</p>
<p>Patricia Gardiner Against Self</p>	<p>PLEASE VOTE NO - ASK BEFORE ACTING, RESPECT THE VOICE OF COLORADO RESIDENTS</p> <p>I have been a resident of Colorado since 1968. I have been proud of the respect shown in Colorado for the voice of its people. ASK then act has been the way Colorado handles major issues. We demonstrate that through the requirements we have concerning tax increases. We encourage new ideas and fresh faces to be part of our governance. We demonstrate that through our term limit requirements.</p> <p>This bill does not exhibit this kind of respect. Instead, by having the legislature &amp; governor make such a major healthcare law it disregards the will of the people who live here by not even ASKING if this is what we want.</p> <p>Major issues, like this, should be put on the ballot and voted on by all who call Colorado home. When this is not done, it divides us. Colorado residents respect the will of a majority our fellow residents, even when we don’t agree on the issue. A fine example of this was legalizing marijuana. This was a hotly contested issue. We voted &amp; marijuana was legalized. We have accepted the results &amp; united on handling the results, both good &amp; bad, that came with that decision.</p> <p>Colorado was once a fairly traditional, or conservative, state. We are now a mix of traditional and progressive ideas. Notice I said we are a “mix”. That means we still discuss our viewpoints &amp; listen to others, we are not divided. However, that open discourse is hanging on by a thread. Making this law, without hearing from Colorado residents, will be very harmful to the unity still exists.</p> <p>This is not an urgent health crisis. A lot has changed since the last election, but not in this area of women’s healthcare. Concern about a Supreme Court decision does not equate to an urgent healthcare crisis that requires action without first hearing from the people.</p>

	<p>If you are concerned, raise your concerns with the people who elect you. Make this part of your election platform. Raise public awareness. DO NOT just push through a law without doing the work of gathering support first. We have enough dividers in our country, don't add to that. Please, be a uniter, Colorado needs more of them.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Trish Gardiner</p>
<p>Christopher Campbell Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote "No" on the Reproductive Health Equity Act. We believe, and science proves, that a human life starts at conception. We do not support any kind of murder or torture, whether the human is born or unborn. Though you may not believe in him, the truth is, this is an agenda straight from the devil who hates you and all people and would like to see us all dead and tortured. If your mother agreed with this bill, you wouldn't be here right now. Any short term benefit you get from agreeing with this act will ultimately turn into a nightmare for you. Agreeing with this act will also bring a curse and judgement against you, your family, our state and the well being of the people who live here. We are for the life, longevity and well being of the Colorado people. Please do not make Colorado a child-murder destination. We vote "No".</p>
<p>Stephanie Campbell Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote "No" on the Reproductive Health Equity Act. We believe, and science proves, that a human life starts at conception. We do not support any kind of murder or torture, whether the human is born or unborn. Though you may not believe in him, the truth is, this is an agenda straight from the devil who hates you and all people and would like to see us all dead and tortured. If your mother agreed with this bill, you wouldn't be here right now. Any short term benefit you get from agreeing with this act will ultimately turn into a nightmare for you. Agreeing with this act will also bring a curse and judgement against you, your family, our state and the well being of the people who live here. We are for the life, longevity and well being of the Colorado people. Please do not make Colorado a child-murder destination. We vote "No".</p>
<p>Rebecca Young Against Self</p>	<p>I wish to be a voice for the unborn babies. I urge a no vote for sanctity of life. A beating heart is a life that should NOT be stopped by a medical procedure for no cause. All lives matter!</p>
<p>Coleen Marin Against Self</p>	<p>I am a Catholic Christian opposed to the taking of an innocent life by abortion. Over 63 Million lives have been lost to abortion. 63 Million innocent children who may have been the person to find a cure for cancer, who may have been the next Mozart or Beethoven, who may have been the President or a spectacular artist. These innocent children never had an opportunity to be present in the world and make contributions to society. Abortion kills an innocent child.</p>

	<p>And it is a child. Science supports this. Is the embryo alive? Yes, it is growing. Could the embryo be anything but a human? No of course not. All humans have dignity of life and a right to life under our constitution. Is a baby aborted the day before it is born not a baby? Does it still being in its mother's womb rather than outside the womb make it not a baby? No, a baby is a baby. How can it be okay to do surgery on a 22-week-old viable baby in the womb to improve or save his life but abort that baby in the womb at the same age?</p> <p>Reproductive Health Care should mean allowing a potential mother to view her baby on an ultrasound. Planned Parenthood avoids that at all costs. In my opinion, the Colorado Legislature should put as much money and effort into supporting pregnant women as it does in supporting Reproductive Health Care. Our state would be much the better for it.</p> <p>I oppose House Bill 22-1279 and any other bill that supports abortion. I urge you to vote NO on this bill.</p> <p>Sincerely, Coleen Marin</p>
<p>Christa Golding Against Self</p>	<p>In haste and desperation, the "legislation" proposed in HB22-1279 tramples the peoples' First Amendment right of free speech by attempting to make it illegal to demonstrate against abortion in the state of Colorado. Voting for HB22-1279 would be an indication of self-interest and extreme partisanship, not representation of the people of this state.</p>
<p>walter koschik Against Self</p>	<p>As a resident of the state of Colorado, I oppose the submitted bill HB22-1279 in light of its continual false dismissal that a unique and independent human being, created at conception, does not have the same right to the protection of their life by the state, as children, teenagers and adults do, just because they live outside the womb. Taking the life of another human being is criminal and morally wrong at any point of their existence, no matter what the mother ("pregnant individual") or father feel is convenient for them. This is a one sided bill that tries to eliminate fair opportunity for those with differing views.</p>
<p>Lolita Valento Against Self</p>	<p>It is completely improper to force this bill upon constituents without allowing it to go to a proper vote. Millions of Coloradans stand for life in the womb. This measure is brutal and extreme and totally out of line with bonafide voter sentiment on the issue.</p> <p>A close majority of Coloradans believe life in the womb should be protected at 22 weeks, the point of viability outside the womb, at the very least. This was proven during Proposition 115.</p> <p>To ram this measure down the throats of Coloradans who have no opportunity to vote upon its consequences is entirely unfair and outside the realm and spirit of what politicians are put in place by voters to</p>

	<p>accomplish. It is contrary to the true will of the People of Colorado, and should never in any way be allowed to pass or stand.</p>
<p>Gwendolyn Olin Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you for hearing my testimony.</p> <p>I ask the Representatives to vote NO on HB22-1279, Reproductive Health Equity Act. This bill goes far beyond what Coloradans are willing to support.</p> <p>This bill will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ban the state of Colorado from providing any rights to preborn children</li> <li>• Bans parental notification or age restrictions on abortion</li> <li>• Invalidates all existing and future local abortion restrictions</li> <li>• Bans common-sense health restrictions on abortion, like requiring women to consult with a doctor before taking abortion pills</li> <li>• Bans options to prevent abortions based on sex, race, or disability</li> </ul> <p>This bill happily seeks to make Colorado a travel destination for the killing of preborn children with no restrictions whatsoever. Young women will be traveling to the state to get an abortion without their parents' knowledge. Localities will be unable to keep abortion facilities out of their communities. Also, the state will be specifically writing into law that the preborn child has no rights in this state.</p> <p>I support the sanctity of life and I pray you examine your heart and choose to vote NO on this extreme bill. Thank you.</p>
<p>Carissa Omanoff Against Self</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>As a Colorado native and resident I strongly believe this abortion bill should NOT be passed. It saddens me to see that an abortion could be done for any reason. I have two young children, 3 years old and 4 months old, and through the experience of their pregnancies and one miscarriage, I can strongly attest that life begins at conception and EVERY human being needs their right to live. I pray that the representatives who are voting will agree with me. These women who are considering abortions have many other options that would give their children life and not death. Thank you,</p> <p>Carissa</p>
<p>Renee Goldberg For Self</p>	<p>I am writing to request that Colorado protects the right to access safe, legal abortion care by passing the Reproductive Health Equity Act. Every person should have the fundamental right to choose/refuse contraception, an abortion, and a pregnancy. Because of Planned Parenthood and access to affordable healthcare through them, I never had to face the decision to keep a pregnancy or have an abortion. They gave me access to affordable care and contraception. If we don't pass this act, Coloradans may face the same vigilante, bounty hunter style abortion bans as Texas, and Colorado voters have proven time and again that they want access to abortion if needed. We also know that abortion bans disproportionately effect communities of color, low-</p>

	<p>income people, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, and other marginalized people. We cannot rely on federal courts to protect our rights in Colorado. Please pass RHEA. It is time we stand up for women's right to control their bodies. Ensure that abortions are legal and accessible to Coloradans. - Thank you, Renee</p>
<p>Margaret Froehlke Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>I am registered nurse and mother of 4 adult children. Brennan is our 3rd child and has Down syndrome and autism. I am contacting you today to urge you to VOTE NO on HB22-1279.</p> <p>This bill clearly violates the right to life for unborn children by giving those in positions of power the ability to make judgements to condemn and kill defenseless, voiceless human beings in the womb, even after they are viable to survive outside of the womb.</p> <p>Each infant, including you and I, began our life in the womb and were spared this unjust, despicable treatment and were born without this looming threat of evil, discrimination and death.</p> <p>This legislation clearly sets out to kill innocent American children based on a list of self-centered, selfish, pre-selected "conditions" that they have determined are "less than worthy" of their definitions of what is a human life. This act grants permission to continue these vial practices well after the unborn child own ability to survive outside of the womb and survive without the aid of their mother's body.</p> <p>Do you not recall, our own country's past evil history of legalized slavery which allowed the American government comprised of white men in positions of power to commit atrocities to an entire race of Black Americans? And, lest we forget, the millions of lives that were deemed "less than human" and killed through a state system initiated by a World Leader, Adolf Hitler?</p> <p>The audacity of such a law should outrage all of us! It clearly shows how selfish and self-centered the world has become. Enacting this legislation brings all of us one step closer to a state-run system that has the power to kill any of us, at any point in our lives, should "the powerful" determine, we are not worthy and measuring up, no matter our age, and stripping us of all human dignity.</p> <p>As a mother, I can't begin to tell you of the countless joys and gifts I have received because of our son Brennan's life. He alone is without judgement of others, is always kind, considerate, thoughtful, honest, and loving. None of the rest of my family members, including me, can I say that about. His life has touched and changed more lives than I could ever do. I am so humbled and honored to call him my son and thank God every day that he is a part of our family. I pity those of you who have not had the experience of loving a person with disabilities in your lives. That is clearly a loss to your own humanity.</p> <p>Please DO NOT support HB22-1279.</p>

<p>Janice Campbell Against Self</p>	<p>The beauty of Colorado greatly diminishes if we do not recognize the beauty of life - from conception to end of life as ordered by our Creator. Therefore, abortion on demand (HB22-1279) should never be considered as an alternative to viable healthcare. Life-giving alternatives are available - for men, women, and babies, and Colorado would do well to encourage and support them.</p>
<p>Kevin Kelly Against Self</p>	<p>I believe in Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Without life, one can't have the other two. Out in Boulder Colorado Warren-Hern is dismembering human-beings in their mothers womb, I find this most inhumane. I support {Personhood} and I gathered signatures on petitions to get it onto the ballot. Now with artificial contraception, many forms have a secondary action, that prevents nidation. Conception occurs outside of the womb, and the tiny human being travels down to the womb and tries to latch-on and chemicals or mechanical-action of the i.u.d. prevent nidation and the baby is {sloughed-off} and perishes. My position on HB22-1279 is that it fails miserably. Good-day: Kevin</p>
<p>Terese Watson Against Self</p>	<p>For some women an unexpected pregnancy can be scary and worrisome, and many of those women resort to abortion in that highly emotional, frightening time. That is a finality that cannot be undone. Why is HB22-1279 being pushed through so quickly? Why not consider alternatives to helping women during this time, including counseling and the encouragement of adoption?</p> <p>Section 1 (b) of bill HB1279 can be accomplished through adoption. No one's goals are inhibited by carrying out a pregnancy and adopting out a baby, and the pregnant woman's responsibility ends at the birth of the baby.</p> <p>[Section 1 (b): Access to family planning allows all Coloradans to pursue personal, educational, financial, and familial goals and helps decrease the health and socioeconomic disparities disproportionately faced by people of color and people with low incomes.] Need I remind this committee that Planned Parenthood was founded upon Margaret Sanger's belief in eugenics? Her targets were those of low IQ and people of color.</p> <p>In addition, there is no immediate governmental safety concern affecting pregnant women so section 3 of this bill is overreactive.</p> <p>[Section 3 Safety clause The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety.]</p> <p>The character of a society is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable; care for newborns, including those of botched abortions, demonstrates Coloradans character. Do we want to be known for ignoring the vulnerable, or helping them?</p> <p>I implore you to vote against this extreme bill.</p>
<p>Cynthia Schwindt Against Self</p>	<p>It is my understanding you have introduced legislation to create a path through which there are no options for any local government to deny or limit legal abortions. At this time, Colorado law allows for safe, legal</p>

	<p>abortions. It seems this bill is written to allow for 'equity' in abortion, which implies the current abortion law in Colorado suffers from defects in fairness and justice. I find this to be false. Creating a bill that does not allow local governments to make decisions regarding abortion is unfair; the state of Colorado should not entertain this level of government overreach by passing this bill.</p>
<p>Shirley Penaflor Against Self</p>	<p>I am strongly against HB-1279 and urge the Committee Members and my Representative to vote against this bill. HB-1279 goes drastically beyond ensuring the fundamental right to make reproductive health care decision free from gov't interference. it interferes with the fundamental right of the unborn right to life. HB-1279 iwould be the most radical abortion law in the United States and is far reaching beyond the fundamental right to health care decisions. The unborn should be protected under the law, not sentenced to death by it. This bill is a fear-based reaction to the possible overturning of Roe v. Wade at the extreme cost of innocent human life. Again, i urge you to stand for life and vote against HB-1279.</p>
<p>Eric Surface Against Self</p>	<p>Greetings, I am reaching out as a Pastor, and concerned citizen that this bill HB22-1279 not be passed and should not be brought forth again. It is morally, civically, and spiritually reprehensible. Anyone with any common sense should be able to see the far reaching negative side effects, not only that of killing innocent children, of this terrible legislation. I pray that you will do the right thing and stop this bill.  Blessings, Eric Surface</p>
<p>Bryan Sanford Against Self</p>	<p>I stand in strong opposition to HB22-1279. This bill would allow the killing of our most vulnerable members of society- unborn children. Gone are the days when someone could support abortion because the baby was 'just a clump of cells'. Medical technology clearly demonstrates that a baby in utero is fully human. From the time of conception the baby is a unique individual with its own unique genetic code, a code that is neither his mothers nor his fathers. It contains all of the genetic information required to determine the child's individual characteristics- no new genetic information is needed. The child is in the mothers womb, her body, but is a completely separate individual with it's own body. Standing up for the rights of individuals should include children in the womb. We work hard to prevent violence in our society- no one should be subject to violence to their body because of the desires or choices of people around them. Abortion should be no different. In every abortion- regardless of the reason- an innocent human being is brutally violated and dehumanized. We have a responsibility as citizens to ensure safety and protection for every member of society, especially those that cannot defend themselves. Every life has value. We need to remember that a childs value is not based on whether that child will be unwanted. As a father of 9- 5 adopted- I can attest that there are families out there that are ready to provide homes for children that are</p>

	<p>unwanted. Or inconvenient. Or a burden. Or disabled. Or the wrong sex or skin color- how can any of these 'reasons' justify the killing of an innocent child? Abortion is NOT 'healthcare'- it is a choice to end the life of an innocent baby. By passing this bill, you are advocating and agreeing to the right to kill children at any time of the pregnancy for any reason. By taking a stand against this bill- and any bill that gives others the right to kill innocents- you are standing for the rights of everyone, the rights spoken of in the Declaration of Independence- the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Please take a stand for the right to life!</p>
<p>Abby Bankson Against Self</p>	<p>As a citizen in the state of Colorado, I gravely ask you to vote no on bill HB22-1279. This abortion bill is the most radical in our country and will lead to the deaths of countless babies and zero accountability. I'm convinced God is weeping over our state even considering this bill and I'm praying a compassionate and wise decision is made this week. We as individuals and as a community will be help accountable for our actions and I plead with you to consider the sancity of human life from when our heart first beats. I myself was almost aborted and can't imagine my life and the privilege of having my own family being taken from me. I beg you to consider what you ate voting for carefully before casting a ballot. Thank you.</p>
<p>William-Terri Nelligan Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to testify in writing on HB 22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act. This legislation, if enacted, will improve the reproductive health of no one. It will however remove all remaining restrictions on abortion in the Colorado, leading to the murder of the unborn without restriction. Our country's founding documents recognize that we are all endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. The order of these inalienable rights is intentional - without Life, there can be no Liberty, and without Liberty there can be no pursuit of happiness. Today we have reversed the priority of these rights - the Pursuit of Happiness is now paramount and anything or anyone, in this case even the unborn, who stands in the way, is denied their right to Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness. The truth is we are sacrificing our future; our children, on the altar of convenience.</p> <p>This all comes down to Choice. To borrow from scripture; we have been given a choice between Life and Death; between a blessing and a curse. This choice is not just for us; but for our children and our children's children. We pray that you Choose Life and vote against Death and HB22-1279.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>William and Terri Nelligan Dolores, Colorado</p>
<p>Denise Davis Against</p>	<p>I am against this bill because abortion hurts women in so many ways. While many things need to be changed, this bill is not the way to do it.</p>

<p>Self</p>	<p>Please know that I do believe a fetus is a human and has rights. I am strongly against this bill. Denise Davis</p>
<p>Patricia Coombs Against Andrew Wommack Ministries</p>	<p>I had an abortion while at UNC 1973. I chose abortion without a clue of morality. I was so lost. When I made that decision I experienced the nightmare of killing life. At the clinic there was an attendant that kept slapping me for hyper ventilating. In the recovery room there was three young 20's girls all sobbing over what had just happened. I subsequently turned to alcohol and drugs and began to try and kill myself by taking 17 hits of speed a day. I wanted to die. Then a friend came into my life and led me make a decision for Christ and Jesus forgave me for my sin. I now live feely knowing I can help other women receive forgiveness. As a single mom I got pregnant by making an irresponsible choice. I put that baby up for adoption and gave a couple a child who had tried for 12 years to have their child. So I can say life matters. Please donot it is for women's health. It nearly killed my to have an abortion . Giving life for adoption was tough but I blessed a baby boy giving him life and wonderful parents</p>
<p>Lauren Fleeman Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Lauren Fleeman and I am a Colorado resident. I am also a wife and a mother and I am a Christian that believes that God created all human beings and that life begins at conception. We are created in the image of God and even science has confirmed that the baby is fully human at conception. Abortion is therefore a crime and is committing murder on an unborn human being. We don't kill human beings based on their size or for convenience of the mother. This is a sin issue and sin will corrupt us but their is forgiveness in Christ alone. Since the baby in the womb is indeed human, he/she has bodily autonomy and that cannot be refuted. This bill promotes "postnatal" abortions which means after childbirth. This child would be left to die or be euthanized after a request is made. This sick and demented for someone to view a newborn as disposable. HB 1279 violates the fundamental human right to life for millions of pre-born children. And it is out-of-touch with the desires of millions of Colorado voters. I call on you to do what is morally right and protect the human rights of pre-born children. Thank you.</p>
<p>Rosanne Loukonen Against Self</p>	<p>I do not believe this bill represents the opinions of most Coloradans. It's an evil bill that devalues human life and I hope and pray that this bill never sees the light of day outside of this committee. Please stop it here!</p>
<p>Gary Eastty Against Self</p>	<p>As a resident of Colorado I would like to urge the whole Colorado General Assembly to vote NO on HB22-1279. This is essentially an abortion on demand law that will cause the deaths of many unborn babies. We hear alot about what matters in our country and state today, and protecting unborn babies really matters! Of all the people who are marginalized and need protection, the unborn is number one in my thinking.  With all respect,</p>

	Gary R Eastty
Alma Oliva Against Self	<p>Testimony against HB22-1279</p> <p>I am a mother of three, two of which were born alive and well. In my first pregnancy, I had many questions and fears. Nonetheless, seeing my baby grow was a beautiful experience. Everything looked normal. I could see his heart, even though he was just a little bean. At week 10, I felt a pull, and then I felt my baby's body hit the wall of my uterus. Something was wrong. I went to the doctor only to find out that my baby's heartbeat was no longer there.</p> <p>NO ONE can tell me that a fetus is not a human being! NO ONE can tell me that he is not deserving of respect and human rights!</p> <p>I was not able to conceive for a while. I got pregnant a second time. I began having contractions, and the doctor sent me on bed rest when I was six months pregnant. I could feel my baby move inside of me. I would rub my belly and my baby would move towards the area which I rubbed. I started playing with him. I would poke my belly and he would kick the area in which I poked him. Babies are alive and they are separate human beings from the mother. They like to feel loved and they show their ability to reason and follow a simple game. They are not the same being as their mothers!</p> <p>Mercy has nothing to do with killing and trampling with human being rights saying that babies don't exist, or that they are not people! Let babies live! There are so many loving homes that would be willing to adopt them. Let them live!</p> <p>Do not let those who are pushing for this genocide to take place! A baby is alive! Those who tell otherwise are liars and thieves. They will never say to a woman how much pain it would be for them to wonder what would have been of that baby! No one will tell them how much pain it is to have a little one removed from inside you! They won't tell women they will dismember or burn that little one inside of them until he is dead! They also don't tell them how hard it will be for afterward to conceive.</p> <p>I urge you: Do not let others decide over your children!</p> <p>Woman: These cold-hearted business people are not interested in you or your well-being. They are only interested in their own greed, and they are trying to pass these acts to silence those of us that still use reason to defend the youngest of our kind.</p> <p>I sternly oppose the Reproductive Health Equity Act!</p> <p>In God we trust!</p>

	Alma Oliva
LaDonna Robertson Against Self	<p>Dear Sirs and Madams,</p> <p>I am requesting a vote of "NO" for HB22-1279. This bill is extreme in nature. Minors have no business having abortions without parental oversight. Having an abortion, not only is detrimental to the baby his/herself, but can have life altering affects on a young mother having the abortion.</p> <p>I am speaking from experience, having an abortion as a just-turned 16 year old that could never have children because of that abortion, I feel that you all are not looking at the mental and possible physical problems that occur with having an abortion. Parents need to be able to guide their children to what is best and to be there for them in all life altering times. To take that away from parents is child abuse on your part.</p> <p>PLEASE VOTE NO.</p> <p>Thank you, LaDonna Robertson</p>
Jacey Oehling Against Self	<p>DATE: March 9th, 2022 Time: 1:30 PM</p> <p>House Bill 22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act</p> <p>Colorado General Assembly 200 E Colfax Avenue Denver, CO 80203</p> <p>Dear Madam Chair Susan Lontine, Vice Chair David Ortiz and all members of the House Health and Insurance Committee:</p> <p>My name is Jacey Oehling; I am testifying on behalf of myself. I am testifying against House Bill 22-1279 which would grant fundamental rights to individuals pertaining to the use of contraception as well as granting pregnant individuals the fundamental right to abortion. Further, I am against House Bill 22-1279 which would prohibit a fertilized egg(s), embryo(s), and fetus(es) independent and derivative rights.</p> <p>I oppose this bill as it would give pregnant women the right to murder their unborn baby through abortion. A parent's duty is to protect their child and raise them no matter the cause of conception.</p> <p>An unborn baby is a human being. They must be treated as such.</p> <p>There are resources to help pregnant women and their unborn baby in the situation of unwanted pregnancy. Murdering an unborn baby is not the answer.</p>

	<p>When a pregnant woman murders an unborn baby, she eliminates a future and a glimmer of hope. A future husband, wife, best friend, member of the military, or perhaps even president.</p> <p>Instead of allowing the murder of unborn babies in the State of Colorado, I suggest you promote the hope that an unborn baby can bring into this world.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p> <p>Jacey Oehling</p>
<p>Shawn Adams Against Self</p>	<p>The blatant disregard for life is beyond reprehensible. Isn't it amazing that all that are for abortion have already been born. How would you all feel if your mother had chosen to abort you. Oh yeah, you wouldn't because you would be dead! These babies didn't have a choice in being conceived and certainly don't have a voice in being killed, and yes they are being killed. Every child is a gift from God, you are killing his children. I do know how you could possibly sleep at night if you pass this bill, knowing or not knowing how many lives you are ending. What if it was your Grandchild that was murdered, would you still think it's ok? Just think all the memories that you will never have because you were a part of passing this bill. May God have mercy on your soul for being a part of this bill pass!!!</p>
<p>Mistyque Menn Against Self</p>	<p>Good afternoon, Oh, how I wish I could be there in person. Face to face requires a higher level of personal responsibility when faced with people who speak truth even when it's unpopular.</p> <p>A baby in a mother's womb has DNA separate from the mother. This indicates a separate life. I want to remind you that you are not God, &amp; you are not to play God, by deciding when life is or is not viable.</p> <p>This bill is not health-care, but murder. To "pro choicers": Until you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the baby does not experience excruciating pain, fear, &amp; misery through the very inhumane procedures of limb dismemberment, skull crushing, ingesting salt, &amp; the like, you should really be more reverent of human life &amp; the fact that your own mother chose life for YOU. What a hypocritical stance, to stand up for aborting babies when you yourselves were spared such evil.</p> <p>You may not believe in God, but I know beyond a doubt He exists &amp; I hear from Him daily. If you vote for this, I have to warn you you are standing in the direct path of God's wrath. I will pray for His mercy over you &amp; your family, &amp; for you to repent, but YOUR vote chooses YOUR standing with God. I promise He is real &amp; you WILL stand before His judgment seat someday. Make sure you can say you did NOT vote for the extermination of babies because this will not go well for you.</p> <p>I am praying dreams from God over you tonight to cause you conviction &amp; unrest if you plan to support this bill. I pray &amp; plead you heed the warning, so your home will be spared.</p> <p>Do the right thing.</p>

<p>Alicia Scott Against Self</p>	<p>Mistytique Menn</p> <p>Thank you for hearing my testimony. I am strongly opposed to this bill, HB22-1279. Abortion is not a right that should be given to citizens. I'm not sure why murder is only considered after the baby is born. Many babies can live even after an abortion. What makes them different? I believe life starts at the moment of conception. All babies are a gift from God. I have a daughter with Down syndrome and our communities have allowed the abortion rate for children diagnosed in-utero with Down syndrome to sky rocket to 90% of all prenatal diagnosis's of Down syndrome to be aborted. This is a tragedy. My daughter is a gift. She has a beautiful life and happens to have Down syndrome. Children are a blessing and not just an inconvenience to our financial, social, and family plans. We need to change our plans to let in the life that God has given us. Many abortions are happening today because of inconvenience to one's plans and personal desires to have a certain and specific baby. The Lord has given babies and that is His perfection.</p> <p>It is sad but with the permission to end life through our legal system, people believe it is not a big deal to have an abortion. Some women have many many abortions as a form of birth control. This is a tragedy! Please do not pass this bill. Let's love every child and let them have a life. There are so many people who want to adopt. We need to spend more time and energy promoting adoption and prenatal care than on this bill!</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony.</p> <p>Alicia</p>
<p>Grant Lucyk Against Self</p>	<p>I believe a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus is a human being and should have independent and derivative rights under the laws of the state.</p>
<p>Marty Dawley For Self</p>	<p>Today, I ask that all our legislators learn or remember our American past, when abortion was illegal. I remember this time well. When a woman had an unwanted pregnancy, she faced choosing backroom, illegal abortionists or her own coat hanger or other attempts to end the pregnancy. These abortions killed, hospitalized and sterilized many women. Yet many women, even knowing these risks, sought out abortions.</p> <p>These women were not criminals but they were criminalized. They were women faced with a huge life decision, who knew that pregnancy would be catastrophic for them at that time in their lives. They made this dangerous choice because that was the best option for them. They were not prepared to be pregnant or to raise a child.</p> <p>There is no similar choice in men's lives. A man can impregnate a woman and walk away from the pregnancy. The pregnancy does not limit his ability to complete his schooling, hold on to his job, raise his other children, or face his friends and family. It does not endanger his physical or mental health. A fair legislator must consider abortion from the perspective of a woman whose life is being interrupted and changed without plan or desire by an unexpected pregnancy. This may not be a situation that you will ever be in, but it is a reality in women's lives,</p>

	<p>young and old, rich and poor. While pregnancy is often a great blessing, it can be a catastrophic interruption of a woman's life.</p> <p>When our legislators block the right to abortion, they are choosing to make a choice for all women, a choice the legislators may not understand the implications of. No one denies that abortion is not the ideal choice. Education and availability of birth control are solutions all supporters of abortion rights would prefer, but the reality is that some women are still in need of abortions and will seek them out.</p> <p>Statistics show that abortion rates prior to Roe v Wade were (percentage wise) approximately the same as today! That's stunning, isn't it? Like Prohibition, when we attempt make our personal moral beliefs into law, the results are often not what we intend. Like Prohibition, criminalizing abortion simply pushes it underground. It does not achieve the goal of eliminating it.</p> <p>This country and this state are founded on the idea of freedom of belief. Those who believe abortion is wrong should not have abortions. Those who believe that abortion is an important part of women's reproductive rights should have those rights guaranteed. We should not return to back alley abortions and the inequality of safe abortions only for those with the money to buy them. Abortions were frequent during this country's period of abortion prohibition. Forcing abortion underground will endanger and kill many women, not prevent abortion.</p> <p>I hope each of our legislators will face these truths and support the rights of all Colorado women by allowing them to make their own reproductive choices.</p>
<p>Drew Hymer Against Self</p>	<p>I am under no obligation, in normal situations, to care for my neighbors' children. But if, through my own actions, I cause one of my neighbors' children to be in need, I incur an obligation to care for that person. If I refuse to give that care and the child dies because of my neglect, I'm guilty of homicide. My obligation trumps virtually any other right I could claim.</p> <p>On the other hand, my neighbors are obligated to care for their children. What would we think of a parent who refuses to feed or otherwise care for her baby and the baby dies in her crib because of the neglect? What right could a parent claim to minimize her responsibility?</p> <p>When does parental obligation end? We set an arbitrary line at 18 years old, based on the principle that parental obligation ends when the child can care for her own needs. This fact demonstrates the basis of parental obligation. Parental obligation exists because children cannot take care of themselves. But it's more than that. As illustrated above, I don't share my neighbors' obligation to care for their children. This is because my neighbors, unlike me, caused those children to be in need.</p>

	<p>So when does parental obligation begin? Because parental obligation is based on the child's inability to care for her own needs and parents' causation, all you have to do is ask, when did this happen? The child's needs begin when the parents cause the child to come into existence, about nine months before birth. Parental obligation begins then too.</p>
<p>James Schuler Against Self</p>	<p>President Andrew Jackson murdered thousands of Cherokee on the Trail of Tears. Every president from Van Buren to Buchanan either supported slavery or ignored it. Hundreds of Southern Governors enforced Jim Crow laws for a hundred years. President Truman atomized TWO Japanese cities, while FDR atomized ZERO German cities. JFK set the stage for Vietnam, and LBJ executed it. 50,000 young Americans wasted, plus 3 million more South Vietnamese. Roe v. Wade has been upheld by Presidents Carter, Clinton, Obama and Biden.</p> <p>ENOUGH of defining who IS a person; who ISN'T a person; and who is 3/5ths of a person. When will democrats be done? When will you have your fill?</p> <p>If a woman needs help, HELP HER, without killing the next generation of women growing inside.</p>
<p>David Hudson Against Self</p>	<p>Each Representative took an oath to support and defend the Constitution and the God-given rights that it guarantees. The preeminent human right is the right to life, for if that right is forfeited, all others are meaningless. The clear and undeniable purpose of HB22-1279 is death, not life, and certainly not health. Vote NO on HB22-1279. HB22-1279 explicitly denies the right to life to an entire class of Colorado citizens – those who exist and thrive in their mother's womb. These are not just "potential persons", or "clumps of cells", or other labels which abortion advocates use. Each unborn child is a living human being. This bill would legalize the murder of defenseless children, the most ghastly act imaginable.</p> <p>A yes vote would put partial birth abortion into Colorado law, along with any other form of abortion done until the moment of birth. Science has clearly proven that human life begins at conception. Even if you don't believe science, you cannot deny that late-term abortions kill human beings, not "non-viable tissue masses".</p> <p>A yes vote would potentially legalize infanticide, as this poorly worded bill includes "POSTNATAL, AND DELIVERY CARE" in its definition of "REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE". Forbidding any regulation of "postnatal" care means an infant born before or during an abortion or during a botched procedure can be left to die or euthanized after a physician's consultation. This is abominable and cannot become law in Colorado.</p>

	<p>A yes vote would protect any abortion based on the gender, ethnicity, or race of the baby. You would be party to a crime no different from those of Nazi war criminals who murdered millions based simply on race and ethnicity.</p> <p>A yes vote would remove Colorado's parental notification law, where parents are told if their minor daughters schedule an abortion. You would thus enable children to murder children.</p> <p>A yes vote says that a child who could survive outside the womb has "no rights under the laws" of Colorado. You would deny the most basic human right to millions of Colorado citizens.</p> <p>If you vote yes on this bill, you will be directly complicit in the murders of untold numbers of children, and you will violate your oath of office. May God have mercy on your souls.</p> <p>If you vote NO on this bill, thank you, and please do all you can to persuade your colleagues to stand for life rather than death. The soul of our great state hangs in the balance.</p>
<p>Lemma Peterson Against Self</p>	<p>HB22-1279 has consequences. Not here on earth. You have the power to do whatever you choose and, sadly, you can very simply pass this Bill onward. Our Father in Heaven knows what is right and what is wrong. This Bill is wrong. I hope you make the choice that will honor our Father in Heaven. We protect animals and plants more than a baby being formed in the womb of a mother. Babies are born and thrive at earlier and earlier stages of growth from a mother's womb. To be comfortable with ending the life of a baby at any stage of growth is something that is without morals and ethics. It is wrong for humanity, but it seems only what is wrong is becoming best. Those gaining power keep pushing wrong forward. Please be bold and courageous and vote NO on HB22-1279.</p>
<p>Celeste Solak Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote against this atrocity.</p> <p>*It is wrong to legalize the killing of a human being in the womb at any stage of pregnancy, even until the moment of birth, and make it into a state law.</p> <p>*It is wrong to declare that a woman has a fundamental right to end the life of her baby.</p> <p>*It is wrong to achieve "racial equity" by targeting "people of color," people with low incomes" as well as individuals in rural areas.</p> <p>*RHEA absolutely disregards the rights of human beings in the womb. Even animals have more protection than our defenseless babies and vulnerable women.</p> <p>This is against humanity. Please vote in opposition.</p>
<p>Madelyn Gaarde Against Self</p>	<p>It is outrageous that Colorado would consider a law that would condone the killing of innocent unborn babies and give no option for restricting this slaughter. Our legislature must NEVER pass such a law! No state in our union has shown this much disregard for human life. This proposed law must never be enacted in Colorado or anywhere else.</p>

<p>Philip Sauser Against Self</p>	<p>Please VOTE NO on HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA). If enacted, the RHEA will codify the following into state law:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abortion up-to-the moment of birth for any reason, which would permit:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) On-demand abortion for the full 40 weeks of a pregnancy.</li> <li>b) Abortion based on discrimination of sex, race, or children with disabilities such as down syndrome.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Remove the requirement that parents be notified if their minor receives an abortion.</li> <li>3. Enshrine in law that "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws" of Colorado.</li> <li>4. Prohibit any regulation of abortion based on concerns regarding the health of the woman or baby.</li> </ol> <p>This HB 1279 violates the fundamental human right to life for millions of pre-born children. And it is out-of-touch with the desires of millions of Colorado voters.</p> <p>Please VOTE NO on HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA).</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Philip Sauser</p>
<p>Stephani McCaslin Against Self</p>	<p>This bill is too extreme for Colorado! Preborn babies deserve to be protected under the law – not sentenced to death by it. We the people urge you to vote NO on this bill</p>
<p>Denise Sauser Against Self</p>	<p>Please VOTE NO on HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA), which will be heard in the House Health and Insurance committee on March 9, 2022.</p> <p>If enacted, the RHEA will codify the following into state law:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abortion up-to-the moment of birth for any reason, which would permit:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-demand abortion for the full 40 weeks of a pregnancy.</li> <li>• Abortion based on discrimination of sex, race, or children with disabilities such as down syndrome.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Remove the requirement that parents be notified if their minor receives an abortion.</li> <li>3. Enshrine in law that "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws" of Colorado.</li> <li>4. Prohibit any regulation of abortion based on concerns regarding the health of the woman or baby.</li> </ol> <p>In 2020, nearly 150,000 Coloradans put Proposition 115 on the ballot, which, if it had passed, would have prohibited abortion after 22-weeks' gestation when the child is viable. At the same time, Colorado Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains and other abortion facilities doubled down on making Colorado an "abortion destination."</p> <p>Sponsors Rep. Froelich, Sen. Gonzales, and House Majority Leader Esgar designed HB 1279 to anticipate the upcoming Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health U.S. Supreme Court decision, which could overturn Roe v. Wade, by enacting protections for abortion under Colorado law</p>

	<p>that expand the current legal status of abortion by designating it as a "fundamental right."                  This HB 1279 violates the fundamental human right to life for millions of pre-born children. And it is out-of-touch with the desires of millions of Colorado voters.                  Please VOTE NO on HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA).                  Thank you.                  Denise Sauser</p>
<p>Mark Korb                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>Representatives:</p> <p>Each of us was born of another, our mother. Our existence is dependent on the mutual love of our mother and father. These two individual human beings joined in such a way as to create new life, i.e., to conceive a separate being, a child.</p> <p>Conception of and development of the child as a distinct human being is established by biology and embriology. You can't change this scientific fact by statutory denial of the truth. A fertilized egg matures into an embryo and a fetus--but all are the same individual being, a child yet unborn. This being deserves protection of its idependent rights under the laws of our country.</p> <p>Take courage and look to the lead of millions of your fellow citizens and legislatures such as Wyoming in protecting unborn life in the womb.</p> <p>Vote No on HB 22-1279</p> <p>Mark and Patricia Korb</p>
<p>Sarah Alber                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>I am writing to plead that you OPPOSE and end HB22-1279. Never before has such a barbaric bill been introduced in this state. It attempts to disguise the horrible practice of killing human beings under the guise of "reproductive health care." Aside from the inherent wrongness of the killing of innocent babies, HB22-1279 is racist, sexist, and discriminatory.</p> <p>As a registered nurse and nurse practitioner who focused on the care of new mothers and infants, I am horrified by all this bill stands for. As a life-long Coloradoan with four living children, I cannot imagine a grosser and more horrific law for Colorado to adopt. As a mother who has lost one child to miscarriage and another to an unexpected and unexplainable death after a full-term delivery and eight hours of life, I cannot beg you strongly enough to withdraw any support you have for this bill and strongly oppose it. The process of losing a child, watching as life leaves them, hearing their final breath is one that will haunt a parent forever. No mother has the right to willingly take the life of her child. That child's body and life are independent of the mother's.</p>

	<p>Please, for the sake of all that is good and right, oppose HB22-1279 and save the lives of future Coloradoans.</p> <p>Sarah Alber Denver, Colorado</p>
<p>Nesta Fleming Against Self</p>	<p>My name is Nesta Fleming, and I have lived in Colorado for twenty-three years. I have never given testimony at a hearing, and quite honestly probably never would have, had it not been for the evil put forth in this bill. I am the mother of five children. I have had three miscarriages, also known as spontaneous abortions, and have had two dilation and curettage procedures. This is the same procedure used for women who would like to terminate their pregnancies before the baby is twenty weeks. I would like to address the emotional and psychological trauma that takes place when a this procedure is done. Due to the political nature of abortion, the negative affects of abortive treatments are downplayed and often times, not even addressed. For myself, I was given a mild pain killer and and told to take it for cramping. This was my only instruction and help after having my dead child vacuumed from my body. There was no offer for emotional or mental support. I was not given permission to grieve or to feel loss, as this was seen as any random procedure, like a mole removal. I cannot imagine what the emotional state of a woman choosing to terminate her pregnancy would be like. Regardless of how she feels towards the fetus, her choice to alter her life forever should be met with help and support and not for it to be trivialized by those who wish to downplay her decision in order to promote abortion.</p> <p>As a mother, I would also like to address how if this bill is passed it will remove the restriction for parental notification. As the mother of three daughters 20, 16, and 14 the idea that my girls would have to navigate the emotions and responsibilities of a pregnancy as well as an abortion without the support and love of their family is reprehensible. No adolescent should be given the ability to process a pregnancy alone; Emotions, hormones, and fear would all need to be shared with others, who can help with the burdens that a pregnancy can bring. We do not allow teenagers to make many choices (drinking, which classes to take at school, driving, to name a few) without parental consent; a decision about terminating a pregnancy should be no different.</p> <p>I plead with each of you, please do not pass this bill.</p>
<p>JING WANG Against Self</p>	<p>I was born in China in 1990 under the one-child policy. I am the second child in my family.</p> <p>In order to keep my life and prevent me from being aborted by the authorities, my mom had to hide during her pregnancy.</p>

	<p>Fortunately I was not found, was being born. But this did not end. I remember growing up, the authorities would knock on the our door to check whether there were more than one child in my family. I was not able to say this is my sister or brother, because that would cause trouble for us.</p> <p>If my parents would have chosen to abort me for their convenience, there wouldn't be me. My brother wouldn't be born. Today I can be here writing and testifying simply because of my parents' choice. I don't dare to take it for granted.</p>
<p>Nesta Fleming Against Self</p>	<p>My name is Nesta Fleming, and I have lived in Colorado for twenty-three years. I have never given testimony at a hearing, and quite honestly probably never would have, had it not been for the evil put forth in this bill. I am the mother of five children. I have had three miscarriages, also known as spontaneous abortions, and have had two dilation and curettage procedures. This is the same procedure used for women who would like to terminate their pregnancies before the baby is twenty weeks. I would like to address the emotional and psychological trauma that takes place when a this procedure is done. Due to the political nature of abortion, the negative affects of abortive treatments are downplayed and often times, not even addressed. For myself, I was given a mild pain killer and and told to take it for cramping. This was my only instruction and help after having my dead child vacuumed from my body. There was no offer for emotional or mental support. I was not given permission to grieve or to feel loss, as this was seen as any random procedure, like a mole removal. I cannot imagine what the emotional state of a woman choosing to terminate her pregnancy would be like. Regardless of how she feels towards the fetus, her choice to alter her life forever should be met with help and support and not for it to be trivialized by those who wish to downplay her decision in order to promote abortion.</p> <p>As a mother, I would also like to address how if this bill is passed it will remove the restriction for parental notification. As the mother of three daughters 20, 16, and 14 the idea that my girls would have to navigate the emotions and responsibilities of a pregnancy as well as an abortion without the support and love of their family is reprehensible. No adolescent should be given the ability to process a pregnancy alone; Emotions, hormones, and fear would all need to be shared with others, who can help with the burdens that a pregnancy can bring. We do not allow teenagers to make many choices (drinking, which classes to take at school, driving, to name a few) without parental consent; a decision about terminating a pregnancy should be no different.</p> <p>I plead with each of you, please do not pass this bill.</p>
<p>Brent Anderson Amend</p>	<p>Amend to include abortion and contraception cannot be forced upon anyone and abortion cannot be performed after a heartbeat is detected.</p>

<p>Self</p>	<p>It would be tragic for Colorado to be known as the state with unrestricted access to barbaric taking innocent life away from those who cannot defend themselves.</p> <p>In the bill is the statement "individual's right". Without regard to Roe v. Wade, how can it now be construed that anyone has the right to take the life of another human being? Please note that there is a great foundation of evidence from medical testing now that was not available in 1973 to show that human life begins much earlier than previously thought. Whether that is the detection of heartbeat, the ability to feel pain or viability outside the womb is another debate. But my vote is for detection of a heartbeat.</p>
<p>Larry Gerber Against Self</p>	<p>I am strongly against this bill, as abortion is simply wrong, and against my faith in God. Not informing parents is simply wrong as well. And a child who can survive outside of the womb should have the same rights as any other person. PLEASE do NOT pass this bill!!!</p>
<p>Jeanine Gilmore Against Self</p>	<p>House Health and Insurance Committee regarding HB22-1279: Thank you for your attention to my testimony regarding HB22-1279. Please consider the following before voting on this bill.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any legislation that restricts the right of citizens to express ideas through speech is an infringement on citizens' rights as protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution – For any state bill to restrict an individual's right to discuss an abortion procedure is activist fanaticism. For the state to interfere in a discussion between a parent and an under-age child regarding an abortion procedure is an over-reach of the state's authority. A 15-year old is not old enough to have a permanent driver's license. A 16-year old girl is not old enough to vote. The Colorado State Assembly believes that a young woman has the emotional maturity – while in distress – to make a decision on an abortion without parental input?</li> <li>2. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution also protects the right to assembly and group protest. If those of us who believe that abortion is taking a life, we have a right to protest and to exercise our right to speak openly about those beliefs. For the state government to restrict that right is unconstitutional – for a reason. The definition of fascism includes the "suppression of opposition and criticism". If a state government can override the rights of Colorado citizens under the federal constitution, we are mere steps from tyranny. Think of the precedent you set for those you disagree with...</li> <li>3. For those of us who believe that all life is a sacred gift from God, our First Amendment rights also include the right to religious beliefs and practices. To use public funds for abortion is an infringement on religious beliefs and practices. We pay taxes or face punishment, but those funds can be used for what we believe is murder? There is scientific evidence to support the existence of life in the womb. Science is objective. Whether you agree with it or not is opinion, thus subjective. To force the views of some on all is tyranny.</li> </ol>

	<p>4. It is ignorant to assume that abortion does not have negative effects on women as well. To consider yourselves informed on the issue, please consider reading:  <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6207970/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6207970/</a></p> <p>The First Amendment was intended specifically for when people disagree. To use the law to circumvent the First Amendment is petty activism.</p>
<p>Kenneth Mills  Against  Morning daily web Prayer  meeting Group</p>	<p>From Kenneth Mills Arriba, Co 80804  Colorado House Health &amp; 3/7/2022  Insurance Committee  HB22-1279 ?</p> <p>Dear Committee members.</p> <p>Please do not Vote for HB22-1279. Please vote NO on this horrible bill HB22-1279.</p> <p>A law like this would make Colorado vile and reprehensible.</p> <p>Wickedness cannot long prevail in Government, without a collapse of that Government. The founding fathers knew this and published the same.</p> <p>As representatives of the people Please support the lives of the infants living in the womb, as well as newborns.</p> <p>All of history will judge what we do during this period. Did we protect the innocent pre-born, or did we allow for the slaughter of babies?</p> <p>Please do not allow the slaughter of innocent babies in the womb. Please Reject HB22-1279!</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Kenneth E Mills</p>
<p>Sarah Brown  Against  Self</p>	<p>Hello. Thank you for hearing us against this bill. I'll be focusing on the part of the bill saying preborn children should be denied rights, that they aren't truly people.</p> <p>My first pregnancy, my daughter was incredibly active. I felt flutters starting at 17 weeks, which led into full-fledged womb gymnastics. My</p>

	<p>coworkers would love to watch my belly bounce around, feel her limbs stretching to the max. I have video of this over-the-top movements. I could tell with that level of near-constant activity that she loved the active life. To this day, she is always the one who wants to go hiking, sledding, bike riding. She loves dancing and sports and exploring. She's 12.</p> <p>This started in utero. She's as much a person, created in God's image, a citizen of this state and country, as I am. As you are. As your family members are.</p> <p>My second pregnancy was shortened. I never felt my son move, never held him, never saw his face. I miscarried him in an incredibly painful and bloody experience that I don't wish on anyone. I had incredibly callous and heinous things said to me at this time as well from people thinking it was no big deal, no different from a period.</p> <p>I can tell you, the intense depression and pain from losing a child is real and not a clump of cells to be flushed.</p> <p>The hole in my own heart is not from a period. He was my son, dearly loved, and I miss him every day. He would have been 10.</p> <p>My third pregnancy was even more different. My second daughter was incredibly calm. She didn't bounce around like my oldest, but preferred to gently stretch from time to time in utero. My husband called her a sloth. Today, she is much calmer than her sister. She views the world in less intensity, but with a thoughtful kind of peace. She's almost 9.</p> <p>This also started in the womb.</p> <p>My children, who you may meet someday, are people. They started as people at conception. They deserve to have their rights protected at any stage. They are YOUR kids' peers. Your kids are people and were people from conception. They bring perspectives into this world that are unique to them, just as you and I do as adults.</p> <p>None of you should lose your rights, or be dehumanized through discrimination, based on how old you are, what your location is, how much you depend on others to survive, or what you happen to look like today. Neither do I. Neither do these children. Vote no.</p>
<p>Lisa Maclean Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote against HB 1279. How is this 'equity'? An abortion can happen for any reason, at any time with this bill? Girl? Wanted a boy? Abort. Changed my mind moments before birth? Abort a fully viable baby. A minor is trafficked, becomes pregnant? Abort. Another minor is pregnant and has an abortion without parental notification? This bill is evil and is being fast-tracked like no other bill I've watched. Vote against HB 1279.</p>

<p>Michele Markham Against Self</p>	<p>Testifying Against HB 1279</p> <p>I am testifying AGAINST HB 1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act.</p> <p>I am writing to be a voice for those most vulnerable, those who do not have a voice, the unborn.</p> <p>I am writing for the person who already exists, not one who might be. From the moment of conception, nothing can change that person from who they are.</p> <p>I am writing for the beating heart that means life. I didn't need my nursing license to tell me that.</p> <p>However, this legislation proposes to silence that voice, deny that person a right to life and extinguish that beating heart.</p> <p>This legislation is out of touch with the desires of millions of Colorado voters. Do not suppress the voices of the many Coloradans who oppose the murder of children through abortion.</p> <p>Please vote "no" on HB 1279.</p>
<p>Michelle Conkey-Sajban Against Self</p>	<p>Hello, as a mother and Coloradan I am grieved by this legislation. Additionally, as an employee of a Boulder County nonprofit serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), such as Down Syndrome, I find this legislation to be the farthest thing from Reproductive Health Equity.</p> <p>HB 1279 doesn't protect women undergoing abortion, rather it prioritizes abortion over the health and safety of women. Additionally, this Bill destroys the life of preborn babies even if the baby has the "wrong sex," "wrong race," or has disabilities. Where is the equity in that? I would say this bill supports racist, sexist and discriminatory practices. Finally, HB 1279 does nothing to address the root problems that a woman faces that drives her to consider an abortion.</p> <p>With decades serving persons with IDD, I see the consequences of this bill causing greater harm than good. It misses the mark entirely and will leave a void and unfathomable loss of the love and goodness that children and persons with disabilities contribute to their families and society. We are a better people and society when we love, not when we destroy.</p> <p>Sincerely, Michelle Conkey-Sajban</p>
<p>James Opperman Against Harvest Bible Church</p>	<p>There is no basis whatsoever for rejecting a pre-born baby's human rights: Life and personhood begins at conception and therefore pre-born children have human rights that are to be protected and preserved according to the United States Constitution. Any other determination of</p>

	<p>when personhood begins is widely disagreed upon and arbitrarily determined. Levels of development and dependence among the children do not determine life or personhood and certainly do not permit authority to take away life. To pass this bill is to ignore human rights, to ignore parental authority and responsibility, and to embrace gross perversions of justice against human rights. The truly painful situations that are commonly discussed such as cases of medical emergencies for the mother, rape, incest, and developmental issues constitute less than 2% of all abortion cases and such a small percentage by no means requires such unrestricted allowance of abortion.</p>
Deanna Smith Against Self	I am against this bill.
Phyllis Acker Against Self	<p>I am very against the use of Federal, State or Local governmental tax dollars (my hard earned tax dollars) to facilitate and enable a woman's decision to have an abortion. I see that as governmental interference, making it far easier to make that life scarring decision. Abortion is a moral, ethical double edge sword grappled with in the most vulnerable time in a woman's life. Determining the very permanent decision to end a viable, promising human life which is part of HER. Planned Parenthood and other entities like them, although touting the "GOOD" reproductive and preventative health services that they provide for women of "ALL AGES" is a panacea for filtering tax dollars to themselves for ABORTION services. I was there once, 50 + years ago, at that precipice. I had my sweet baby boy, love him always and lived my life righteously from then until today and never regretted a moment of the struggles and rewards. How could anyone deny any woman the choice to freely choose her destiny. Our trials, and our decisions for good or evil build who we are. The government and HB22-1279 should have NO PART IN THAT.</p>
James Smith Against Self	This is an irresponsible bill that promotes discrimination and does not represent the will of most Colorado residents
Amy Weinstein For Self	<p>As a teen and young woman in my 20s, I took two of my friends to have an abortion. I checked back with these women many years later and they let me know this was the right decision for them at the time and they had no regrets. I am now in my sixties and grateful that I could help my two friends at that time, some 40 years ago in Colorado. I have also known family members and friends, from both sides of the political spectrum, who have elected to have abortions. This really is not a right or left issue. It is an issue that, no matter sex or gender orientation, all people have equal rights, under the 9th and 14th amendments of the US Constitution, to make their own health care decision. This is crucial. One sex cannot have preferential treatment over another. The important thing here is to recognize that the right of people under these amendments are basic rights afforded in the United States to all people.</p>

	<p>This bill, which fundamentally gives all people the right to make reproductive health care decision for themselves, should be passed. It should then be codified into our state constitution as well, so that people making these important decisions for themselves, will always be able to make them.</p>
<p>Jim Bachta Against Self</p>	<p>I am strongly opposed to the Reproductive Health Equity Act. Colorado has always been known for its natural beauty; if passed, this bill will make us notorious for our moral ugliness. The provisions of the bill, which propose no limits on the practice of abortion, deny what both science and reason affirm about the humanity of the unborn child and about consequent emotional, physical, and social tragedies that impact not only the unborn and their parents but also all society for generations to come. This radical bill contradicts the will of the people of Colorado, and indeed the whole nation, who have repeatedly expressed the desire to limit abortion. RHEA is both unjust and grievously wrong-headed. Please turn away from sending it forward from your committee to the legislature. Stop RHEA today.</p>
<p>Trevor Wood Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote NO on HB22-1279.</p> <p>This extreme bill would arguably make CO the most pro-abortion state in the nation. It would prohibit parental notification and the protection of babies who are targeted based on characteristics such as disabilities. It would also ban any future local regulations - regardless of new situations that may arise.</p> <p>Please vote against HB22-1279. In fact, please consider the testimony from Pastor Jeff Durbin, who testified before the CO legislature on behalf of the Bill for Equal Protection. Here is the testimony: <a href="https://youtu.be/qyYNDd66A7s">https://youtu.be/qyYNDd66A7s</a>.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing your vote, which I hope extends to considering the life of the unborn child.</p>
<p>Cassandra Ortler Against Self</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>When I was a teenager, a group of women and I were handing out pamphlets to support an abolitionists movement. We left one at a house, where in the open garage, was a group of drunken men. They preceded to come out and yell at us about how abortion was a woman's right and that we should stop handing out these flyers and stop telling women what to do.</p> <p>I yelled back, "Interestingly enough, you you are all men, and we are all women."</p> <p>I left it at that. No need to argue drunken fools. That encounter lead me to realize how often abortion is used by men and women as a guise of empowering women. There is nothing powerful about choosing to snuff out the life of an innocent person just because you can. As a woman, and a mother, it disgusts me that our government thinks it has the authority</p>

	<p>to tell me I can legally murder my children and that somehow by having the freedom to do so, empowers me in any way. It's the exact opposite of empowerment. True empowerment, is encouraging a woman that she is strong enough to raise her children. We compare a mama bear protecting her cubs to being powerful, we would never compare power to the female animal who eats her own young.</p> <p>They're are women who are proud about having murdered their children. With the shout your abortion movement. But this only proves the wickedness of humanity. There were many proud slave owner and Nazis. They were emboldened by the law, not empowered. After all, the law is the great teacher. When you make laws protecting the transgression of human rights, it isn't before long you have a generation that shouts their abortion, or goes to war over their slaves. Both are wrong. Both put the strong over the weak, both deny humans their God given rights to life and liberty. You have the responsibility to make the law reflect what is right. All of history is watching. Which side will you be on? The side that permits the murder of our most innocent? Or the side that stood up against the oppression of our smallest citizens?</p> <p>Please, vote against HB22-1279. Unborn future generations are counting on you.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Joy Braunlich Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote NO on this horrendous bill. To kill a baby up to the day of his birth is an atrocity. I pray that you will fight this legislation! Especially if you claim to be a Republican, we will fight to remove you from office if you do not vote NO!</p>
<p>Telsche Crandall Against Self</p>	<p>My name is Telsche Crandall and I live in Fort Collins, Colorado. Having been diagnosed with severe preeclampsia last year, I know firsthand what it's like to be a woman whose life is in danger as a result of her pregnancy. The only way to prevent the worst was to have an emergency C-section, so my son was born at 32 weeks. He spent the last couple of months in the NICU. I'm sharing our story today to advocate for babies like him and their right to exist. While I was in the NICU, I got to see the people that are normally hidden from view inside the womb - and they are the most wonderful, tiny, resilient little humans. My 3 lb son was born with an expressive face, exquisite little fingers and toes, and a feisty temperament. He could turn his head toward my voice, remembering from when he heard it inside the womb. As I watched him transform over what would have been my last trimester of pregnancy, I knew that I was privy to an experience that most of the lawmakers on this issue never have. They never have to look at the victims of the laws they advocate for. Right now in Colorado, not only can a baby like my</p>

	<p>32 week old son be executed in the womb, but abortions can happen up until point of birth, which means a baby this size can be killed and dismembered in the womb. This is what this bill is seeking to enshrine into the Colorado constitution. This bill shockingly states that babies do not "have independent or derivative rights under the laws of this state." As I spent two months in the NICU, I wondered, why do these babies get to live while others are killed? Does being wanted by someone grant you the right to exist? Any baby like these, if born to a different situation, could be being ripped apart by forceps right now rather than given oxygen and a feeding tube. Does being a certain race mean you get to exist? The bill also states that we should be prioritizing abortion care for "communities of color". So these lawmakers apparently would like the outcome of fewer non-white babies being born in our communities. This bill represents a kind of state-sponsored bigotry that I would expect this body to be vehemently opposed to. I urge you all to vote against this bill that denies an entire group of Coloradans the fundamental right to exist. Thank you.</p>
<p>Joel Patchen Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Representatives, Please vote unanimously against HB22-1279. Five decades of unrestrained abortion is enough. Coloradan's deserve better than abortion, a scientific denial of the highest order. Biologists, medical scientists, doctors, and common sense people everywhere agree that human life begins at fertilization, the joining of sperm and egg. With ultrasound technology, frozen embryo adoption, and fetal surgery all prevalent today, it is ludicrous to contend that the developing zygote or embryo is not a human being. Pregnancy once begun is not a choice, it's a reality. Please stop pretending you don't know this truth. Frankly, anyone who looks at pregnancy objectively will conclude that a new human being is developing. A life that possesses self-directing DNA, separate organs, and often a different blood type and gender from its mother. We have laws that protect endangered species, but not children in the womb. How shameful. Colorado will not become a state that affords its citizens true equality and justice until it eradicates the practice of abortion. HB22-1279 seeks to permanently codify discrimination against Colorado's most vulnerable pre-born children. Children of every creed and color. A sick and cruel practice that rivals slavery, racism, and anti-semitism in its evil!</p> <p>I have personally experienced the concrete reality of fetal life in the womb through my pre-term daughter, Brooke. A daughter who showed me the beauty of fetal life before an illness took her life. But unlike an aborted child, Brooke was afforded the opportunity to fight for her life. A gift HB22-1279 seeks to strip from other children because they are classified, erroneously, as non-persons. What a barbarity, we've engaged in. All human life, including yours and mine, began at fertilization. It's well past the time to recognize the facts and put this egregious form of science denial, discrimination, and atrocity behind us. Let's say no to HB22-1279 and yes to our future, the developing children of Colorado. Please don't be one of those leaders that lines up on the wrong side of</p>

	<p>history like George Wallace. Reject HB22-1279 and work toward the liberation of the pre-born and the betterment of our state for all our people!</p> <p>Thanks for your time, Joel Patchen</p>
<p>D Stoddard Against Self</p>	<p>I am representing the youngest and most vulnerable of our state, our children cruelly ripped from the safety of a womb. This is not freedom for all when with the provisions of HR 22-1279. Allowing abortion up to 40 weeks takes the life of a child. As a mother of 4, I have felt each of our children moving around at around 20 weeks. How can anyone deny that is a life and that precious small life deserves protection as much as any other person?</p>
<p>Kelly Green Against Self</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.</p> <p>I am opposed to this bill. It would allow abortion with no restrictions on the state of Colorado. I am opposed to abortion in general but this bill is especially concerning for these reasons:</p> <p>A person who denies a pregnant woman the ability to have an abortion would be prosecuted by this law. Would this include parents of minor teenage girls who find themselves pregnant? Young women need their parents to help them navigate complicated situations like this and this bill would keep parents from being able to help their daughters.</p> <p>What happens in the case of a violent crime against a pregnant woman in which the unborn baby is injured or killed? Will they be able to get justice if an unborn baby has no rights?</p> <p>Partial birth abortion will be legal with this bill. This is infanticide. A baby who is able to survive outside its mother is brutally killed moments before it would be born.</p> <p>On a personal note, I am a Colorado native who adopted a son through foster care in Denver County. I am so grateful that his mom did not decide to have an abortion even though she was in a difficult situation at the time. Rather than focusing on ending life, please instead focus on how we can help the underlying problems that cause a woman to seek to end her pregnancy.</p> <p>Please do not pass this bill.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kelly Green</p>
<p>Geralyn Juen Against LifeNetwork</p>	<p>I urge you to preserve and value life as humans from the time of conceptio as it is harmful to women, babies and families. Also, I see how things like parental notification can make a difference in a young person not feel isolated from their parents.</p>

	<p>Thank you</p>
<p>Jessi Mabis Against Self</p>	<p>I know first-hand how destructive actions like this will be to women, men and families. We see everyday how things like parental notification can make a difference in a young person not feel isolated and choosing to parent – this bill would undo that, among other things that are harmful to women, babies and families.</p>
<p>Roger Butts For The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado</p>	<p>Thank you for your service. Whatever side of the aisle you are on, your commitment to Colorado is deeply appreciated. I hope you hear this often.</p> <p>My name is Rev Roger Butts and I am a minister at Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church in Parker and at All Souls Church in Colorado Springs.</p> <p>I have a long history of working alongside interfaith partners, ordained and lay. Sometimes we agree on everything. Sometimes we don't. But many of my United Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Jewish, Episcopal, and Baptist clergy colleagues join me in advocating for reproductive rights and would join me at this desk to urge your support of the Reproductive Health Equity Act.</p> <p>As a person of faith and a clergy person, I am part of a religious tradition that has long advocated for access to abortion. Our first Unitarian Universalist resolution in support of safe and legal access to abortion passed in 1963.</p> <p>My faith claims that every person has the right to determine what happens to their own body at all phases of life—including if, when, and how they want to have children. As people of faith, this commitment is part of our deepest religious values: Unitarian Universalism proclaims that all individuals and communities have the right to self-determination, safety, and the resources that are necessary for health and sustainability.</p> <p>I have sat with many who have had to make painful choices about how to proceed around an unwanted pregnancy.</p> <p>I know there are no easy answers. No absolutes. And sometimes that means abortion is the best decision a woman can make in her unique circumstances. This legislation leaves it in the hands of the women and their partners and doctors to determine the best course of action, as it should be.</p> <p>I support providing the fullest range of reproductive health care possible, to all who need it. This is why I come to urge you to support HB-22-1279. And to thank you for introducing this important legislation.</p>

	<p>The only reason I can see that anyone would oppose this legislation is because of their understanding of religious mandates. I am here simply to say that there are many of us clergy who are committed to standing up for the human rights and human dignity of all women and all who must make this kind of life-impacting decision.</p> <p>As a person of faith and as a member of the clergy, I urge you to support HB-22-1279.</p>
<p>Kelsey Buckingham Against Self</p>	<p>My name is Kelsey Buckingham and I am here to ask you to vote no on Bill 22-1279. Why is it that we as Coloradans are more interested in protecting wolves than protecting the life of an unborn baby? We pass legislation that ensures that wolves are protected, and yet we want to pass legislation that denies protection for the most vulnerable, an unborn human baby. How many more millions of babies will have to be aborted before we view unborn babies are endangered? Why do we want to ensure that a woman has a "fundamental right" to kill a human baby without government interference and yet we want that same government to interfere to protect a wild animal? I'm baffled at the hypocrisy that we as a society care less about protecting the unborn babies that are being killed by the millions and more about protecting a wild animal. If you sincerely care about protecting vulnerable populations, then see abortion for what it is and vote no on Bill 22-1279. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Robert-Dan Neilson Against Self</p>	<p>This is a decree from Heaven... "Thou shalt not kill, nor do anything like unto it." Abortion is "like unto it."</p> <p>My first child was born just after 1973. The Doctor who delivered him also performed abortions at the time. I marveled how he could both deliver the living and destroy the living. Because Roe vs. Wade was just taking hold, I became a political activist.</p> <p>Since 1973 millions of lives have been terminated by would-be mothers, health-care providers, and non-government organizations. My body, my choice became the mantra, the body of the unborn not withstanding.</p> <p>If insurance providers want to participate in terminating a living soul, that is their business. But my tax dollars should not be involved.</p> <p>If an absolute determined decision to abort is made by the would-be mother, it should be done within the first 8 to 10 weeks of pregnancy. After that it should be a crime against humanity.</p>

<p>Charlene Farrell Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to write my appeal to you. I believe that HB22-1279 is immoral. Innocent life is valuable, every life is unique and has intrinsic value. I have value, you have value, every unborn child has value. we are designed to grow and mature and for our lives to have an impact on this world. Not to be snuffed out with an abortion. It is written in the first of scripture that God, the author of life, breathes life into every man and woman. God gives life and that gives value for life, because of God's value for life each baby in their mother's womb is valued and precious. We are all known by God at conception and are considered an eternal being at that moment of conception. To deliberately destroy that life before birth and as this bill reads even at birth is premeditated murder of an innocent person. No human being (mother) should be granted rights by state government to usurp the rights of another person (preborn child)! I appeal that you do not pass this destructive bill, removing parental rights, destroying the family unit and ultimately destroying women. This is women's history month, that history is blood stained and will be one of genocide should this bill be passed. I again appeal to stop this bill and stop killing our innocent babies.</p>
<p>Suzanne Wales Against Self</p>	<p>I was a young college student with a toddler to support, now I found myself laying in bed crying and hating every flip and kick that was jabbing my abdomen. All I could say was Stop to the tiny human inside of me. It took me back to that day- I had tried to get out. I was biting, scratching, trying desperately to get out from the grip of those tree trunk arms out from under the pressure of his body. All he said was, "You can't tell anyone. No one will believe you." Now I was carrying a miniature version of him.</p> <p>Yes, my Doctor pushed me to terminate his life and yes, I considered it but I could not bring myself to be a monster to a helpless human like the monster who had deliberately tried to ruin my life. Little did I know that one day I would be grateful to have the opportunity to mother such an amazing human. Does my son look like his father? -A little bit, but this generous young man is not a monster. My son is a successful independent adult who advocates for women.</p> <p>I kept him and have had the privilege of raising him to be a caring individual who contributes to society instead of taking from it. Sometimes I wonder what life would be like without him. The rough times grew us. The happy times have given us memories to cherish, like watching his 3 younger siblings follow him on hikes as if they were his ducklings, having him join me on a late-night sewing project, or observing him and his slightly older sister grow up as best friends. This bill will deprive women of the opportunity to grow, heal, to step outside of themselves, to learn that children are a blessing, not an inconvenience.</p>

	<p>This bill will deprive so many humans the chance to make their world better, or at least those around them better people. Please do not make it easier to murder a human who does not have the capacity to defend themselves. As a Certified Community DV Advocate, I believe strongly in women's rights. This bill does not promote the wellbeing of women; it weakens women.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to share,</p> <p>Suzanne Wales</p>
<p>Christy Fidura Against Self</p>	<p>This bill fundamentally infringes on the Constitution by taking aim at the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that would be afforded to these unborn babies by cutting their lives short. While many things may look good or righteous on paper, it is my hope that the voting members of this body look past what looks good on paper and see the lives and potential cut short by these decisions. It should weigh heavily on the minds and consciences of those who have the ability to vote down this vile bill and should, instead, be advocating more for the so-called marginalized population to have access to education that would minimize the likelihood of unwanted pregnancies. And, I notice that nobody is talking about the destination of these unwanted children who will be born into this world, discarded, and then "made comfortable" under the allowances of this bill. Nobody wants to discuss the harvest of these viable bodies. You will have to be accountable for the consequences of your actions today. I hope for the sake of the most innocent of these victims, the babies, and for your own peace, you vote against this heinous bill and overreach of government to allow murder to be just another form of birth control.</p>
<p>Rosemary Samaniego Against Self</p>	<p>Peace be with you, Today, my eyes , ears and aching heart are wide open to the events occurring before me. I am a happily married woman of 37 years. I have seen many change of events over time and the one freedom I have embraced and never taken for granted is the freedom to pursue my career goals and dreams while raising six children. My children were my reason and not my excuse for living my life to the fullest. All of our six children and gone on to pursue continued education and are now thriving, contributing citizens in their communities. I strongly oppose Bill#22-1279. My religious beliefs prevent me from being an accomplice to murder. When you force me to pay for another's abortion; I become guilty of murder along with you. Please recall the Ten Commandments Moses the Great Prophet of God Almighty was given to share to all believers and non-believers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before me- Lust of flesh, lust of power. lust of pride</li> <li>2) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Call on Him only if you need Him. We need you God</li> </ol>

	<p>3) Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day. Do not work, rest and rejuvenate your body. This is a command given to you by God.</p> <p>4) Honor thy father and thy mother- they chose life or you would not be here to read this.</p> <p>5) Thou shall not kill-no excuses here.</p> <p>6) Thou shalt not commit adultery-be true to God and true to yourself</p> <p>7) Thou shalt not steal- you are stealing the unborn child's life; it is not yours to take</p> <p>8) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor-you are outwardly lying to these girls/women that this is the best we have to offer them. Shame on you.</p> <p>9) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.</p> <p>10) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.</p> <p>I am a teacher of the Catholic faith for over a decade. I love God, my family, and my career. In this order, I keep a good balance. May God search your hearts and souls this very day. Your eternal happiness depends on it. I am praying you do the right thing and vote NO.</p> <p>Thank you for reading this all the way to end.</p> <p>Viva Cristo Rey!</p>
<p>John Slattery Against Self</p>	<p>As a citizen of the United States of America and a native of the State of Colorado, I object to HB 22-1279 and fully desire to make this objection known and demand this objection receive full and due consideration.</p> <p>Upon a reasoned examination, it cannot be found rational that abortion is a natural right of humanity. This is self-evident in the simple biological fact that every human being who has ever walked this earth was once a fertilized egg that grew into a fetus that was birthed as a human baby. That includes every one of you who is considering this bill. What possible reason could ever justify that you had a greater right to life than another who, by no fault or action of themselves, was unable to receive the amazing gift of their own creation because this was terminated by an abortion before their birth.</p> <p>The rhetoric supporting this action devolves into nothing less than such a person was not a person because they were merely a fetus, described in the rhetoric as "a mass of tissue" undeserving of the rights and protections of our constitution.</p> <p>I may remind you that slavery in the United States was considered justified because the ethnicities of those enslaved were considered "sub-human". Hitler justified the murder of millions of Jews and others on these grounds. In effect, current abortion laws only guarantee the protections of our constitution for a baby that has exited the birth canal alive. How can this be justice?</p> <p>I find it a true poverty that a woman's ability to bring forth a new human life is considered a potential disability, an inequality, or worse, a matter of property rather than the powerful and profound gift that it is.</p> <p>I believe that we should be a better people than this and the justice of our laws should reflect this. Every one of us had a mother that said yes to our existence-whether the circumstances were optimal or not and</p>

	<p>whether that father was honorable or not. That is heroism, not vulnerability.</p> <p>I implore you to end this bill now.</p> <p>John Slattery</p>
<p>Kenneth Sparks Against Self</p>	<p>HB22-1279 bill is a travesty of policy and law and should not be passed. It is a human child that is being formed in the womb, it is not an inanimate object, but a living, functioning human being in development, deserving of protection and possessing rights. The fact that a baby may or may not survive outside the womb does not make it any less than a human. Just like an elderly person on life support, unable to survive without that support does not make them any less of a human. The logic of this law flies in the face of logic and in the face of human decency and dignity. It is infanticide and we will pay the price, as a society, to allow "choice" to include the option to terminate a life. Do not pass this bill.</p>
<p>Marcela Schott Against Colorado Right to Life</p>	<p>I implore you to take every possible action to protect the 2,363 American citizens whose lives are ended EACH DAY through the tragic act of abortion.</p>
<p>Trenton Girkins Against Self</p>	<p>I am against this bill!!</p>
<p>Angela Davis Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you Madame Chair and committee. My name is Angela Davis and I represent myself and the preborn who have no voice. I am asking for a "no" vote on HB22-1279.</p> <p>"The Reproductive Health Equity Act": This bill is anything but equitable. Equitable is defined as "dealing fairly and equally with all concerned". What is equitable about denying a human in utero acknowledgment or basic human rights? Call the bill what it is please...an abortion protection bill. "Reproduction is the biological process by which new individual organisms or "offspring" are produced. Reproduction is a fundamental feature of all known life." Abortion ends a life. Period.</p> <p>I understand that denying the human aspect of an aborted baby is sometimes the only way you can champion the abortion procedure. However, denying human life because it makes an abortion story easier is not what laws should be made of. The verbiage "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state", does not belong in Colorado law. Human life deserves to be recognized with dignity. The conversations here today are dismissive at best towards women who have experienced the heartache of miscarriage or stillbirth by suggesting their grief is unwarranted. Colorado can and should strive to do better. Please vote no on HB22-1279. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Erica Lisby</p>	<p>Please vote no on this bill.</p>

Against Self	
Raymond Higgins Against Self	<p>I want to record my opposition to this bill (HB22. 1279). The fertilized human egg is a human life. It is a human life. There have been many attempts to define exactly when life begins over the past 50 years. Even pro abortion advocates agree it is a human life. So the conversation is re-directed to 'quality of life', the rights of the mother.... It is a human life and as such, is precious in the eyes of God.</p>
Pauline Higgins Against Self	<p>I am against this bill as I must defend those who cannot defend themselves. Abortion is the taking of a human life. Everyone knows it is a human life. I pray for all our legislators that they may vote against this bill.</p>
Evelyn Hunter Against Self	<p>I am writing to beg you to vote No against the abortion bill. We should not kill unborn babies. We must protect the most vulnerable among us. We are shocked and outraged at Putin bombing a children's hospital where mothers were in labor. But isn't that hypocritical if this bill would allow abortion right up until birth?</p> <p>We should support mothers and fathers in every way possible, who do not want their babies; find homes for the babies, help mothers get back on their feet, do whatever it takes, help/require the fathers to be responsible also. If we are excited about our pregnancy then it's a baby. If we're not we call it a fetus so we don't have to feel like murderers. It's crazy. These decisions should be between a woman and her doctor, not the government. And the criteria there is, "First do no harm." I had four miscarriages. Every one of them was a baby. It tore my heart out.</p>
Gordon Carroll Against Self	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen</p> <p>My name is Gordon Carroll. I will try and keep this short since, after all, it's really a very simple issue. Life begins at conception. All of science, all of nature, and the God of the Universe says so.</p> <p>Everyone knows it. Anyone that says otherwise is either a liar or a self-deluded liar.</p> <p>God has stated that murder is the killing of the innocent. No one is more innocent than an unborn baby.</p> <p>The Constitution of the United States of America recognizes God's law when it affirms our unalienable God-given rights, to life and liberty. Without life, there can be no liberty.</p>

	<p>Every human was once a baby in their mother’s womb. We all started out small, but alive, and human, from the instant of creation. And so are entitled to the rights given by God. No man or woman, or group of men or women, have the right to legislate God’s entitlements. No one on this panel, or this government, or any government, has the right to say it’s okay for themselves, or anyone else, to murder anyone.</p> <p>Not a civilian, not a cop, not a doctor, not a politician.</p> <p>I was a United States Marine for seven years, a front line Law Enforcement officer for thirty-five years. I swore an oath to protect innocent life.</p> <p>You all swore similar oaths when you took office. You will be held accountable to those oaths. Be careful what you put your name to. Lives depend on you being careful.</p> <p>History will judge you. But far more important, Jesus Christ will judge you.</p> <p>So, please, attend to your oath. Protect the most innocent and vulnerable of us all. Those who can not protect themselves.</p> <p>And vote NO, on HB22-1279.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Julie Duffy Against Self</p>	<p>The very idea that legislation of this type could be possible is so disturbing and disgusting. How can there be such a disregard for human life? No one has the right to use their body to harm another innocent person. That’s why laws exist, to prevent people from doing what they want with their bodies; a man does not have the right to do what he wants with his body and rape a woman, a person does not have the right to do what they want with their body and use their hands to kill another person, a person does not have the right to use their body to own another person as property, a Russian soldier does not have the right to use their body to shoot an innocent Ukrainian, a person does not have the right to harm someone of different, race, sexual orientation, age, etc. People do not have the right to do what they want with their body when it involves harming another innocent person. This is exactly and fundamentally why abortion is wrong. It is the willful harming of another person’s body - a body that’s living and growing innocently, inside the womb. To discriminate against a living human being in such a way is beyond comprehension in our world today! Those innocent humans have no way to protect themselves! Pre-born babies deserve to be protected under the law - not sentenced to death by it! I urge you to vote NO!</p>

<p>Judy Moore Against Self</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, in Jesus' Name please open the hearts and minds of all those working on passing this bill for them to be able to see and understand clearly the great evil in abortion. Heavenly Father, You are the Author of life and the Creator of all life. May we humble ourselves and accept Your beautiful design and plan for our lives. May we realize that as women if we are blessed to conceive a child that this is the greatest blessing that can be bestowed upon us because children are a blessing from You! Heavenly Father, in Jesus' Name may all people be able to know and value the lives of all human beings from the very moment they are conceived until the time of natural death. May we put away our selfishness, and realize that the greatest thing we can do in our lives is love and care for those that are in our lives! Children are the embodiment of true love! Having the opportunity to care for a child is a gift that can teach us how to truly love another by laying down our lives for the good of the child! Please let us not destroy these beautiful gifts that You give to us! Father, in Jesus' Name heal our hearts, minds, and souls of all that keeps us from understanding and accepting that children are a gift and blessing from you! May we protect the lives of children at every cost! In Jesus' Name. Amen.</p>
<p>Bobby Young Questions Only Self</p>	<p>How do you know with absolute certainty that reproductive health is under attack? Why are all these legislation's across the country supporting heartbeat bills? Does not life start when you can detect a heartbeat? How is life created? If life creation is out of your control, why are you giving license to end it? Why have all the attempts of the past to bring forth this type of legislation failed? Do you listen to the majority of the people here in Colorado, who have rejected this time and time again, or not? What about the silent voice of that life in the womb? Don't their voices matter? You state that the opposition to this bill is politically motivated, but are you not politically motivated as well? You want equity for all Colorado, so why not for the life in the womb? You say that life in the womb has no rights, why is that, and how do you know they have no rights? Do ALL "Stages" of reproductive health include cost free adoption? How many families do you know who are willing to adopt, but cannot afford it? You want all reproductive health to be affordable, so why not the same for adoption? If you pass this bill, will abortion costs go up, or will they go down? How could they not go up dramatically when sexual intercourse is on the rise, and with no consequences for this activity? Who pays for all of this? Can you create legislation for all of Colorado who don't want to pay for all these new clinics that will have to be built and staffed to support all the new increases for abortion? Can they have the option to not have their hard earned dollars fund something they do not support? Equity for all?</p>
<p>Elizabeth Chacon Against Self</p>	<p>The abortion law is adequate as exists today. Most of today's testifiers acted as if abortion were not legal in the state today; in fact, Colorado has one of the most liberal abortion laws on the books today. Children are our only hope and future and we should move away from laws that eliminate their rights. The more stringent requirements take away children's rights. The "my body my choice" argument is a myth, no</p>

	<p>woman is allowed to kill a baby outside the womb with her body. Women can't violate the laws of society with their bodies, they will get arrested if caught.</p> <p>For those of faith, seriously consider whether God wants mothers to abort their children. It is completely unnatural</p> <p>Babies of rape are victims too, why kill the victim. I am unaware of any other crime where it is encouraged to kill the victim of a crime.</p> <p>Legislators should consider the words of Jesus when they evaluate this bill, "Even so it is not the will of your Father, who is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." How will God treat those that support such a bill that promotes violence toward children?</p>
Richard Deppe Against Self	<p>The killing of a fully viable infant is murder. I stand against abortion in all cases, but if passed, this bill legalizes infanticide and those passing this piece of legislature should be held accountable to murder.</p>
Holly Watson Against Self	<p>To whom it may concern it is with great pain I share that I have had an abortion. The one and only thing in my entire life that if I could do differently I would. A pain I will carry the rest of my life. My permanent decision based on temporary circumstances and emotions will haunt me the rest of my life and nothing will bring my baby back. I cannot stand the thought of any other person going through this agony. I am begging you not to pass this bill. For the sake of others with so much pain I ask to stop this today. Do not pass this as it is murder. I went into my appointment that day and had an abortion and in my eyes today I took part in the murder of my unborn baby via an abortion. It is the worst of pains over 25 years later.</p>
Diane Birden Against Self	<p>Please please VOTE NO on HB 1279-Reproductive Health Equity Act.</p> <p>There are many other options for a pregnancy other than abortion. For instance, adoption. I experienced this and was able to meet my adopted child after she was an adult. She had a wonderful life with her adopted parents. Meeting her was the most wonderful day of my life.</p> <p>It is not necessary to have this type of legislation.</p> <p>Please, please VOTE NO.</p>
Brooke Sprinkle Against Colorado right to Life	<p>I wanted to take time today and give testimony that the life of the unborn is valuable. I want to speak up for those who can not speak for themselves. The unborn lives that are priceless. This bill should not move forward due to the vague writing.</p> <p>"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched — they must be felt with the heart." — Hellen Keller</p>
Jay Inman Against Self	<p>Good evening and thank-you for hearing me</p> <p>The Reproductive health equity act is repugnant. The last sentence in the Bill summary states that a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state.</p> <p>It's as if you are attempting to use a magic legislative wand to legalize the murder of our most innocent and vulnerable individuals.</p>

	<p>From conception, that little one has a unique DNA package and in a few short weeks, a heartbeat. They are individuals.                  Like slaves, that our nation fought a civil war to free, these little ones are silent with no voice in their demise. This bill would remove their individuality for purposes that can only be labelled as execution, denying them due process under our constitution.                  All people are endowed by our sovereign creator with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, in His image. Even the unborn.                  This bill is nothing less than justification and legalization of infanticide.                  Thank you for listening</p>
<p>Daniel Oehling                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>DATE: March 9th, 2022                  Time: 1:30 PM</p> <p>House Bill 22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act</p> <p>Colorado General Assembly                  200 E Colfax Avenue                  Denver, CO 80203</p> <p>Dear Madam Chair Susan Lontine, Vice Chair David Ortiz and all members of the House Health and Insurance Committee:</p> <p>My name is Daniel Oehling; I am testifying on behalf of myself. I am testifying against House Bill 22-1279 which would grant fundamental rights to individuals pertaining to the use of contraception as well as granting pregnant individuals the fundamental right to abortion. Further, I am against House Bill 22-1279 which would prohibit a fertilized egg(s), embryo(s), and fetus(es) independent and derivative rights.</p> <p>We should not be the ones to plot down a time or measurement for the termination of a fertilized egg or any other stage of development (Which is known as a child.) during anytime the process for pregnancy starts for a human being.</p> <p>Each other states do not have the same idea for this measurement or agreement, nor do individuals in CO with each other on this subject, for when a child in the womb is allowed to be murdered during a pregnancy. This just shows how inadequate it is for us to state opinion or ideas we make up out of thin air, versus the fact that a child is a child from when the egg is fertilized and the pregnancy process begins.</p> <p>There is no scientific documentation of getting life from non-life. If a living mother has a fertilized egg it only grows from life which we should not take away under any circumstances, just like we would not pull the plug on a human being in a coma.</p>

	<p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>- Daniel Oehling.</p>
<p>Anthony Oehling Against Self</p>	<p>Let's say you wake up, and find yourself on a ship surrounded by a crew and captain. The captain discusses with his crewmen that it is a risk to have a foreign individual on board (you). What should the captain do? Risk bringing you to the other side of the sea and hiding you, throw you overboard to die, or bring you back to a safe-landing.</p> <p>in 1981, at a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Dr. Watson A. Bowes of the University of Colorado Medical School asserted: "The beginning of a single human life is from a biological point of view a simple and straightforward matter — the beginning is conception. This straightforward biological fact should not be distorted to serve sociological, political or economic goals."</p> <p>After examining the evidence, the Senate subcommittee reported: "Physicians, biologists and other scientists agree that conception marks the beginning of the life of a human being — a being that is alive and is a member of the human species. There is overwhelming agreement on this point in countless medical, biological and scientific writings."</p>
<p>Heidi Petak Against Self</p>	<p>Mr. Chair and Committee Members, thank you for this opportunity. My name is Dr. Heidi Petak, and I'm here representing myself as a communication consultant for the Abortion Survivors Network. I'm against this bill because of the abortion survivors I've had the privilege of knowing because of my line of work.</p> <p>There are now 547 abortion survivors who have connected with the Abortion Survivors Network. These are all amazing people who miraculously survived being aborted as babies and are now redeeming their stories by blessing their communities. They have compassionate and forgiving hearts towards their birth mothers. And they are evidence that unwanted children are real people who have the right to live and to redeem their stories.</p> <p>My client Amy Miles is one such survivor. She has cerebral palsy because of the abortion procedure, but she survived and was adopted by a loving couple who was not able to have children. Amy is redeeming her story, and is now a mother of two beautiful children and is a teacher in a public school for children with special needs. Generations of people will exist because she exists.</p> <p>But, as you know, most don't survive being aborted. And when we speak of women's rights, Amy was a woman in the womb who could not hold up a sign that said, "Hands off my body." But her body was nearly destroyed by the hands of an abortionist. This bill has the word "equity in it," but I have to ask, where is the equity for women like Amy in in the state of CO?</p>

	<p>A woman here in CO who would be viable outside the womb has the right to redeem her story that began with the word "unwanted." But in any great movie that's just the "inciting incident." Perhaps that woman is the next Olympic skier, or mountaineer, or Colorado legislator.</p> <p>We would all say we are against oppression, when powerful people snuff out the voices and lives of powerless people, but what is this bill but oppression? Abortion victims and unwanted children are a marginalized people group who need us all to be their voices so that they can redeem their stories here in Colorado- for good.</p> <p>This bill also does not address the need for health care for infants born alive after an abortion procedure. Ohio passed legislation in December for born alive infants, and I would hope that in the future, Colorado would pass similar legislation that provides health care for these infants.</p> <p>I urge you to vote no on RHEA. Thank you for this opportunity.</p>
<p>Shannon McCrary Against Self</p>	<p>Please do not pass a Bill that would make murder legal for convenience. This takes abortion to a whole new level and as someone who works at a pregnancy center, I have seen the power of lives changed when people are educated on what abortion actually is and that a baby's heart starts beating 18 days after conception. You have a heartbeat, do not make it accessible to take away someone else's. This would not improve Colorado. Instead, it would make our state a catalyst for harm and selfishness.</p>
<p>Amanda Borchers Against Self</p>	<p>I have been a Colorado citizen my whole life. As a Colorado woman and mother, I am deeply concerned over HB22-1279 and voice my strong opposition to this bill. The extremism of this bill is alarming.</p> <p>The bill states that abortion is a "fundamental right" and that "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state." It would also prohibit the state and local public entities from "depriving... an individual of the individual's right to act during the individual's own pregnancy based on... the pregnancy's outcomes." Implications of this language include allowing infanticide, as it specifically states individuals have a "fundamental right to make decisions about reproductive healthcare," which includes "postnatal and delivery care." Let's not let Colorado become a place where it's okay to kill newborns.</p> <p>It would cement into law that unborn children have no "independent or derivative rights," which doesn't just mean the right to not be killed in the womb, but the right to not be tortured or disfigured. People could consume medications or other toxins to intentionally bring about birth defects. People could also abort their children for being the wrong sex,</p>

	<p>having Down's Syndrome, or being the wrong race. Unborn children would have zero protection from any discriminatory practices, which are common. They could also be aborted by any means, including the brutal and painful method of partial-birth abortion.</p> <p>Also troubling to me is the language about the need to commit abortions on people of color, which harkens back to the racism of Margaret Sanger and other eugenicists who promoted abortion as a means of controlling what they deemed as less desirable populations.</p> <p>And it would do all this without helping women at all. Nothing in this bill addresses the root problems which drive women to consider abortion.</p> <p>This is not what progress looks like. Colorado is one of only seven (7) states which allows abortion up to birth. The United States is one of only seven (7) countries which allows abortions this late, along with China and North Korea. We are not in good company.</p> <p>The language of this bill is extreme, racist, sexist, does NOT represent the values of the people of Colorado, and would not stand to benefit the people it claims to. Please, do everything you can to oppose this bill.</p>
<p>Amanda Borchers Against Self</p>	<p>I am a life-long Coloradan, a wife, and young mother to 3 children. I testify against HB22-1279 to give voice to the thousands of Coloradans who do not support the killing of children in the womb, who stand for the most vulnerable, who speak for the voiceless. We've heard so much about the right to make choices surrounding abortion as fundamental. If we don't have the right to life, first, we have no rights at all. Bodily autonomy necessarily flows from the more fundamental right to life. I am horrified by the language contained in this bill which strips unborn children of all rights. We've heard previous testimony from those in favor of this bill that a fetus is not a person. We've heard other testimony that it is not the place of the state to determine whether or not a fetus is a person with rights. This bill, though, does just that: it codifies into law that a fetus is not a person with rights. Since the personhood of a fetus is debated, we should err on the side of caution, respecting the most fundamental and basic right to life of this person, and not recklessly destroying the most vulnerable people. We've also heard a great deal of testimony about the right of people to choose whether or not to become parents. A pregnant woman is a mother already to the person in her womb.</p> <p>My own story of becoming a mother begins on my 22nd birthday, when I was shocked to see two pink lines on a pregnancy test. I didn't learn that day that I was going to be a mom, but that I was a mom to someone very small, someone unplanned by me and my husband, but still someone very loved. I remained a mom six days later, when I lost that</p>

	<p>child in a miscarriage. Language like that contained in this bill, which strips unborn children of their personhood and their rights, is deeply offensive to women like me because in declaring that a fetus is not a person, it also strips pregnant women and women who have suffered miscarriage of their motherhood.</p> <p>The bill also states that individuals have the right to make decisions about reproductive healthcare, which is defined as including postnatal and delivery care. The language of this bill does not preclude infanticide. I hope that though many disagree that unborn people shouldn't be killed, we can still agree killing newborns is wrong. This bill is dangerous and extreme. I beg the committee to vote no on HB22-1279.</p>
<p>Lori B Against Self</p>	<p>I had an abortion in the 80's. Promised "abortion will be quick &amp; easy, go back to my normal life in a weekm almost all women are relieved afterward". I'm still waiting for "normal life" &amp; "relief". Immediately felt "empty", The nightmare of being on the table, crying in pain, hearing sounds &amp; feeling my baby being removed still haunts me! Had no choice but repress it &amp; go on though. College, Army, careers. Fought severe depression, panic, &amp; anger, non of which I had prior to the abortion. I was 18 &amp; ok with being pregnant. But my boyfriend said he'd leave if I kept baby &amp; parents would kick me out of house. I told family doctor &amp; abortion counselor I didn't want an abortion- just felt I had no other choice. DID THEY SAY, WE'LLHELP YOU KEEP YOUR BABY? No! " Wait a few days, think about it then decide"? NO! They said "it's normal to be afraid but this is for the best. In a hurry, gave me a sedative &amp; 2 hours later my baby was gone. THEY DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME-OR THEY DIDN'T CARE! "You can have children later". WRONG. I'm 59, never able to have more children!!! Did they explain fetal development? NO. "It's just tissue, not a baby". FOUND OUT 20 years later that was NOT TRUE!!! I trusted my family Dr! IT TRULY WAS AN UNINFORMED DECISION &amp; I gave "UNIFORMED CONSENT"!!! With internet I finally saw photos &amp; videos of what my baby WOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE- fingers, toes, a FACE, MOVING! SUDDENLY I FELT LIKE I WAS HIT BY A FREIGHT TRAIN of SHOCK, DISBELIEF, &amp; OVERWHELMING GRIEF! For months I felt at the bottom of a dark pit of despair. ANGER AROSE toward clinic &amp; doctor who mislead me! Stayed in apt, repeating "I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry" to my baby. No motivation to live. Lost my job, lost all relationships since then. I've had success &amp; fleeting moments I could smile but seeing babies &amp; children reminds me what I gave away and can be unbearable. IF I COULD GO BACK in time I would stand up for MYSELF &amp; MY BABY - protect US BOTH!</p> <p>I'm not alone. In a support group of 1,600 women with the same sorrow. They aren't in public bragging. Girls 16 to women in 70's. EVERY DAY more women find our group, asking "WHY DIDN'T THEY WARN ME I WOULD HURT SO MUCH? The least abortion "providers" can do is tell</p>

	<p>women the COMPLETE TRUTH, FROM ALL ANGLES. Tell them about women like me! If they have doubts HELP THEM! If you really care about women as you say, STOP PUTTING DOWN PREGNANCY CENTERS. Give them accurate information &amp; DON'T SAY IT'S QUICK &amp; EASY!</p>
<p>Douglas Currey Against Self</p>	<p>My wife and family feel you are seriously devaluing human life with this terrible bill. At any stage of pregnancy?? Please stop this.</p>
<p>Lynn Taylor Against Self</p>	<p>Please Vote NO on HB 1279.</p> <p>This bill defines abortion as “any medical procedure, instrument, agent, or drug used to terminate the pregnancy of an individual” And states that “a public entity shall not: Deny, restrict, interfere with, or discriminate against an individual’s fundamental right ... to have an abortion.</p> <p>Today, babies born at 24 weeks have a 68% chance of survival. Babies born at 26 weeks, end of the second trimester, have an 86% chance of survival.</p> <p>This bill essentially legalizes infanticide.</p> <p>Reading from the American Journal of Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology about abortions at the end of the second trimester ...</p> <p>“Dilation and evacuation involves preoperative dilation of the cervix 1 or more days before operative evaluation. With the use of forceps, fetal parts are grasped, and the fetus and placenta are disarticulated as they are removed.”</p> <p>Sanitized, scientific words to say that the cervix is opened and the baby is cut and torn apart during removal from the womb.</p> <p>This bill legalizes abortion until the moment of birth. Again quoting:</p> <p>“A variant of dilation and evacuation can be performed when sufficient cervical dilation is present. In these cases, the fetus is delivered via breech extraction. In most cases, after delivery of the body, the fetal head will become lodged in the cervix, and cranial decompression with suction must be performed to complete the delivery.”</p> <p>Sanitized, scientific words to say that the baby is partially delivered, the base of the skull is cut, the brain is suctioned out which causes the skull to collapse and the baby pulled out.</p>

	<p>Understand what you are voting for.</p> <p>Vote No on HB 1279.</p>
<p>Andrew Ulferts Against Self</p>	<p>Members of Colorado Congress, elected by the People, for the People,</p> <p>Nobody wants this. We did not vote for this. We do not pay you to murder human beings, nor to define what a human being is, nor whether murder is acceptable if you redefine what a life is. You have woken a sleeping giant. We the People are on the move. We unfortunately were not paying attention to what you were doing up there behind closed doors. This radical, evil agenda will not succeed. Stop this in its tracks. This state is hard to recognize today. I cannot believe such monsters exist that allow such destruction. Fix this now. I will make sure everyone hears about this and that you will not be sneaking this by us without a spotlight and a megaphone in your faces for your few remaining days in office. I hate what you've done to my state. Praise Jesus, HALLELUJAH! You evil monsters.</p>
<p>Leslie Gerard Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote NO on HB 22-1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act. This bill would allow abortions at any stage of development, for any reason, including gender, race or disability. It's a scientific fact that life begins at conception. This bill would rob a fetus of the right to life and declare that he or she is not a person which is simply not true. Sadly, minorities would suffer the most by this bill as a large percentage of abortions are performed on women of color. Our time and efforts would be better spent supporting women who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy; and, we have the resources in Colorado to do that. Again, I strongly urge you to please vote NO on HB 22-1279.</p>
<p>Julianna Dotten Against Self</p>	<p>I am writing on behalf of HB22-1279. I am concerned about the radical and callous nature of this bill and strongly urge all committee members to vote no.</p> <p>If you heard a case in which a young, single mother who found herself unable to provide for her 3-year-old and thus decided to take the toddler into the yard and end its life, what would you say? Clearly, Colorado law would see this as a violation of life.</p> <p>But would it be any different if the child was one year old? six months old? one day old? A few days from birth? In other words, since an unborn child has a heartbeat and can feel pain, it is equally wrong to end its life as it would be to end a toddler's life. Pre-born babies deserve to be protected under law, not sentenced to death by it.</p> <p>I equally love women, and have great compassion for the difficult situations many find themselves in, many of which they have not caused. For this reason, I support organizations that help these women, and even help them find loving homes for their babies without having to end their lives.</p>

	<p>Please vote no on HB22-1279.</p>
<p>Anne Alexander Against Self</p>	<p>What a dark time for Colorado! To allow the destruction of beautiful babies in the name of health. To say unborn have no rights, treating them like they aren't human. Never giving these children their chance to live and fulfill their dreams. Why can't we celebrate life, instead of death. Colorado started this culture of death, with the 1st legal abortion and abortion center. Now, our state leaders are presenting this outrageous, too extreme abortion bill. Allowing abortion at anytime, even up to birth. The majority of Americans believe it's wrong to have an abortion after the first trimester. Not allowing parent notification when your young daughter is killing a life and might have a potential of losing her own life. Why don't we protect and love all human life! Let's have a culture of life in Colorado. I, myself had an unwanted pregnancy at the age of 38. People close to me and even a terrible doctor suggested I have an abortion. Fortunately, I never thought about it once. I knew this was a precious little human whom God loved and created so special. At 2 1/2 months, I had an ultrasound. It was so amazing. While watching the ultrasound, my little girl did a flip -- she started out very athletic! Then exercise done, they took a picture that I have to this day, of her lying on her back...resting, chilling out with her legs crossed at her knees and sucking her thumb. Definitely a real human who had real rights and deserved to be protected and cared for. I was so full of awe and wonder, that this little life was inside me. Of course, my life plans were changed, but all for the good. This little girl has been the most amazing athlete, scholar, military Major, and now works with neurosurgeons. We treat animals, criminals and war criminals more humanly than these babies. At least, we give them a pain free death. But not these innocent, defenseless boys and girls. Without any painkiller or anesthetics, the butchering, savagery begins or pulling off their arms and legs and killing in the most cruel ways. Or they use salt and toxins to burn their skin and bodies till they die. Wow, we have never killed humans like this. This bill is the most horrendous, murdering abortion bill that has ever been created. God have mercy on the 3 that created it. If you so callously vote yes for it, God will hold you accountable for every boy and girl whose blood cries out to Him.</p>
<p>Alyssa Dwire Against Self</p>	<p>In this country we stand for having the right to LIFE. This bill allows people to discriminate against a person's sex, race, and disabilities. Every person deserves a chance at life even if their parent doesn't want them.</p> <p>On another note, if we believe minors are not old enough to join the military, vote, or live on their own, then they certainly aren't old enough to make a decision about another person's life. Parents should ALWAYS be notified when their child goes through a medical procedure, including an abortion.</p>

	<p>I believe that Life begins at conception and therefor a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus should have independent or derivative rights under the laws" of Colorado;</p> <p>If we claim to be "For Women", the we should have regulations on abortion based on concerns regarding the health of the woman or baby.</p> <p>This Bill is irresponsible and inhumane.</p>
<p>John Haddad Against Self</p>	<p>I am very much opposed to this bill and want my voice heard. You are elected to represent the will of the people, not just make your own decisions.</p> <p>So please do your job and vote no against this bill. Your hands are on this bill and just like everything we do, we will be held accountable by the Lord for our actions and decisions.</p>
<p>Susan Krems For Self</p>	<p>Please vote HB22-1279 forward + pass it. I have two nieces, both were pregnant with planned pregnancies + very much wanted children. Unfortunately, both were told in their fifth month that their fetus had severe physical problems, would either not be born alive or would die shortly after birth. Both were advised to stop their pregnancies for the sake of their own health. Continuing the pregnancy meant risking their own health.</p> <p>Thankfully, both lived in states where safe abortions were available. Terminating a pregnancy is emotionally heartbreaking, and creates severe, difficult hormonal changes. Needing to travel to another state for their abortions would have increased their physical + emotional pain. HB22-1279 guarantees safe abortions for all. Nature is not perfect, people are not perfect. We should show compassion to anyone who needs an abortion, for any reason.</p> <p>I am old enough to remember when abortion was illegal. If you have not seen the pain of someone whose mother died in an illegal abortion, leaving a family with 3 children motherless, as I have, you do not understand the utter necessity of keeping abortion safe. If you have not met parents who lost their only child in an illegal abortion, you do not understand the cruelty of prohibiting abortions. Please support HB22-1279.</p>
<p>Tamara Carey Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you, dear people of this committee, for the opportunity to submit a written testimony. My name is Tamara Carey, and I am here not to support HB22-1279</p> <p>I wrote this song so that our children would know Who made them, and we wanted to sing it for you, so that you would know, as well. It is from Psalm 139. The "He" referenced in the song is God.</p> <p>For He formed Your inward parts. He knitted you together in Your mother's womb.</p>

	<p>Oh we, we praise Him, we praise Him for you are fearfully and wonderfully made.                  Wonderful are His works. Our souls know it very well.                  Your frame was not hidden from Him when you were being made.                  In secret, intricately woven, in the depths of the earth.                  His eyes saw your unformed substance; His eyes see you know.                  In His book were written - every one of them - the days that were formed for you, when as yet there were none of them.</p> <p>Thank you for listening. We are praying for you.</p>
<p>Leonard Micek                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>I am concerned about the blatant dishonesty and deception in the statement of this bill...</p> <p>To call abortion health care is akin to defining destructive rioting or lethal conflict as peaceful protest or to defining forcible rape as a form of love. Health is defined as the condition of being sound in body, mind, or spirit and is associated with freedom from physical disease or pain. Therefore, reproductive health care is about helping men and women ensure that their reproductive organs are functioning properly; it should not have the objective of incapacitating them. For this reason, abortion (and some other practices stated in the bill) should honestly not be defined as reproductive health care. Simply calling abortion health care does not make it so.</p> <p>Furthermore, fundamental rights are those serving as a basis supporting existence, and the right to live is clearly essential for the existence of the individual. Therefore, abortion which has the objective of terminating a human life cannot be a fundamental right (as stated in the bill.) It is scientifically verifiable that the preborn baby regardless of embryonic state is a unique human individual. Why should it be denied the fundamental right to live? For the preservation of peace, health and safety, as well as civility, the protection of the preborn is an essential responsibility of our society.</p> <p>The title of this bill could be "The Right to Terminate Pre-born Human Life." You lawmakers who support this bill should be honest with yourselves and realize that insisting on this right under the definition of health care is deceptive and dishonest. Furthermore, codifying abortion as a fundamental right, which goes against scientific evidence and the foundational principles of our country, can only lead to further degradation and decline of our culture's respect for human life in general.</p>
<p>Christopher Carey                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>Thank you Committee members for the opportunity to testify.</p> <p>My name is Christopher Carey - I am a father of four children. Three of whom are with me today. Our fourth child died in the womb at 13 weeks old. I held this dead child in my hand. He or she had two eyes, a nose, two arms, two hands, and five fingers on each hand. The child had two legs, two feet, and five toes on each foot. The child was small and had never said a word, but was a human being. When my three other</p>

	<p>children were in the womb, they were alive. They responded to the touch of my hand on my wife's womb. It wasn't just pressure they responded to - other people would put their hand on my wife's tummy, but they knew when the hand was mine. They responded to my voice. Not just any voice, but my voice. They were alive and they deserved dignity, protection, and love because they were human beings - made by God in His image and likeness.</p> <p>We use words that soothe our conscience. We are all inclined to do that. If I spend 30 minutes during my job surfing the internet, I might say that I got distracted for a while, instead of saying clearly that I stole from my employer. We don't like to recognize our wrongdoing and call it what it is. We use words like fetus, or abortion, or partial-birth abortion because our consciences feel better than using more descriptive words. We don't talk about how doctors drive scissors into the brain of a child, or use forceps to dismember a baby, or use a vacuum attached to a vagina to suck out a living person because those terms make us shudder, and strike something in us that is uncomfortable to ignore. Dear representatives, please do not ignore what is plain. Humans in the womb are children made in God's image and likeness. And killing them is murder.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Peter Dickson Against Self</p>	<p>I am opposed to Bill "HB22-1279". My heart breaks for this nation and the loss of life through abortion. There is no amount of money that can reconcile the loss of life and emotional damage occurring in this country. The devaluation of life since Roe v. Wade has contributed directly to this nation's decline. There is division in our society, increase murder rate, mass shootings and suicides. Life is not valued and protected. Our morality withers away.</p> <p>Abortion comes with a price. This bill will inflict lifelong emotional pain on mothers; mental depression and mental illness could occur. Guilt and shame will plague and haunt these mother's lives.</p>
<p>Dianna Doyle Against Self</p>	<p>When I was about 10 years old, my parents let me know that my dad wanted me aborted and my mom chose life. I am a 54-year-old woman of 3 amazing adults and have been married for 30 years this year! I know I have had an impact on many lives through the grace of God. Please do not take the life of anyone, born or unborn. You never know the plans God has for that person and the contribution they can make. Please vote "NO" on this bill.</p>
<p>Elizabeth DeLand Against Self</p>	<p>I know personally the long lasting pain of abortion. I was pressured into an abortion in Colorado in 1971 when I was just 17 years old by a well meaning parent. Since that event I have met countless women also pressured into an abortion by parents and boyfriends and husbands. For many years I suffered the effects of that abortion: Nightmares, secrecy, regret, profound grief that i suffered in silence, and loss of self-esteem.</p>

	<p>When you pass laws encouraging abortion on demand for any and every reason, you put women and children in a terrible predicament of pressure from those around her. Some have any been murdered when they stood up to this outside pressure. And that does not even cover the terrible consequences for men and women emotionally.</p> <p>Abortion is a brutal and unholy affair for all involved and I don't want to pay for it with my tax dollars or make it more accessible. Please don't do this.</p>
<p>Julie Trujillo Against Self</p>	<p>Written Testimony Against Reproductive Health Equity Act 3/9/2022</p> <p>Life is life, no matter the location or circumstance. A person who lives in a palace is no more important than a person living in a humble home. We as a country believe in equality for all and have fought fiercely against maltreatment of a person because of their skin color, age, sexual orientation, gender, religion and more. Why is location something that could determine whether a living being deserves honor and respect? A viable baby in utero that can survive out of the womb is most definitely alive and deserving of the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness we all enjoy in this country. The woman carrying the child may struggle with this decision, but especially past 24 weeks, can be guided gently to at the very least, let the living baby continue to live outside her uterus and be adopted. There are many people struggling with infertility or for whatever reason not able to bear children – let this be their joy and happiness. The science cannot be argued with, life is life. If we are a society that values life, we cannot argue this either and must therefore protect this life.</p> <p>Women need respect. Women need honor. The secrecy and pain of abortion does not respect or honor. I have not met one woman who is genuinely happy about having an abortion, but have only seen women with hurt, regret, lower self-esteem, and depression. There is loss of life and a mother and her partner feel it, mourn it, and are changed forever. Services to help understand and work through this loss should be promoted and brought into the open. Respect and honor are increasing services to help walk with and support women. Protect and honor the lives of women.</p> <p>Respectfully, Julie Grace Trujillo – spouse, mother, physician assistant and Coloradoan</p>
<p>Donald Rogers Against Self</p>	<p>To the Colorado House Health and Insurance Committee Members</p> <p>Bill HB22-1279 states in Section one that it finds: Access to abortion and reproductive health care is currently under attack.</p> <p>Abortion and reproductive health care are two entirely different things.</p>

	<p>Abortion helps no one. In fact, it KILLS the baby and WOUNDS the mother!! It is also quite racist. It specifically targets minorities and poor socioeconomic women. Wikipedia states African Americans make up 14% of the U.S. population and yet they account for 38% of all abortions performed in the U.S. Hispanic's make up 18.5 % of the U.S. population and yet 21% of all abortions are performed on Hispanic's. The list goes on. Very Racist.</p> <p>Margret Sanger, who was a Eugenicist, is celebrated annually by Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortions in America. Her "Negro Project" is indeed, quite racist but abortions providers still celebrate her life. Colorado is not a Racist State!! We should not promote racist ideas.</p> <p>Reproductive Health Care on the other hand is quite different than abortion. There are numerous facilities in Colorado that help with pregnancy planning, and pre and post natal care by providing financial and medical help to pregnant women. Many of these institutions are supported by donation only. Imagine how wonderful our State would be if we took the Tax Payer money that the State and Federal Government paid to Abortion Clinics to end an innocent baby's life and instead gave that money to true Reproductive Health Care for our Colorado Women.</p> <p>Maybe you should scrap this piece of GARBAGE bill and propose one that would do just that.</p> <p>Please Protect the BABIES IN THE WOMB. Please vote "NO" on HB22-1279.</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Donald Rogers</p>
<p>Erin Meschke Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you, Madame Chair and committee members. My name is Erin Meschke and I live in Boulder. I oppose HB 1279 and am hoping to testify remotely but have a meeting I can't reschedule so am submitting written comment to make sure my voice is heard.</p> <p>As much as I believe we should have freedom to control what we are required to put into our bodies, that bodily autonomy must be kept sacred, as a woman who has been pregnant four times I hold a different position about pregnancy and the presence of another life within that body. I had the privilege to be able to plan when I wanted to get pregnant with each of my children...none were accidental or unexpected. I was married, recently graduated from college, and we were excited to start a family. There was a time in my past when unwise, reckless decisions with my sexuality could have created a much</p>

	<p>different pregnancy situation, one with guilt, fear, and uncertainty. Nonetheless, even in my irresponsible years, I wouldn't have been able to abort an unplanned pregnancy. Actions have consequences. The more we allow people to sweep natural consequences under the rug, the more we cripple our society. Our sexuality and reproductive abilities are amazing and mysterious; we must hold them with great reverence and responsibility. Every life, from the moment of conception, is precious and should be protected by all people.</p> <p>Only 3.5% of abortions are done for hard cases; rape/incest: 0.39%, physical threat to mother: 1.14%, mental health of mother: 1.28%, or birth defects: 0.69%. The other 96.5% of abortions are done for social/economic reasons. This is irresponsible. As stated in the bill, I believe that a woman has the right to take or deny birth control but disagree that if she does not do this responsibly she should have the right to end the life created within her.</p> <p>I think this bill is an incredibly dangerous open door to all manner of harms to children. The threat of the current Supreme Court case doesn't warrant creating a law so wide and permissive for Colorado. Under the guise of complete freedom, a baby may be aborted, seemingly, up to the moment of his/her birth because the woman chooses not to take the last step into motherhood. This is a dangerous precedent I believe could lead to euthanizing children up to whatever age they are deemed "fully human" or capable of survival. Our civilized democracy must not be allowed to devolve into this practice. We must protect all of life by opposing HB22-1279. Thank you.</p>
<p>Jennifer Hehn Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Representatives,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to testify AGAINST the Reproductive Health Equity Act. This extreme pro-abortion bill will not provide equal healthcare for women who find themselves in a pregnancy crisis. This bill will ensure that the end result of a crisis pregnancy is abortion. This will destroy a woman's life, in addition, and most importantly, will end the life of an innocent human being in the womb. This bill will not make Colorado a better state to live, but rather will mark our state with the blood of human innocents. Please vote AGAINST this bill. We can do better in Colorado for women and children.</p>
<p>Amanda Glassburn Against Self</p>	<p>This new law would escalate abortions up-to-the moment of birth for any reason, even during partial birth to perform infanticide which is an act of murder.</p> <p>Abortion can take place based on discrimination of sex, race, or children with disabilities such as Down Syndrome; which goes against what America has continued to stand for: Freedom, and what we are currently still fighting for in our society: which we can see CLEARLY in the LGBTQ community.</p>

	<p>This new law would remove the requirement that parents of minors be notified if their child receives an abortion; removing the parent out of their role completely and allowing underdeveloped adolescent to make life altering decisions.</p> <p>This would Enshrine in law that “a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws” of Colorado; removing basic human rights of a life; being.</p>
<p>Lora Larson Against Self</p>	<p>What are you, you the so-called lawmakers, Froelich, Esgar and Gonzales, you who are introducing this evil and unlawful Bill, thinking? This Bill is going against GOD and His statutes and judgments. I fear for you and your leading us down the wrong path. It will not go well with you or us citizens of Colorado if you don't repent from this wickedness done to the innocent babies in the womb!</p> <p>Did GOD who created all things die and in His place make you GOD? No! He is eternal and you are mortal!</p> <p>In Ezekiel chapter 18 GOD states that "The soul who sins shall die...But if a wicked person turns from all their sins which they have committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. (Would you agree that abortion is killing innocent babies in the womb and therefore is unlawful and wicked?)</p> <p>"Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "and not that he should turn from his wicked ways and live? (Please turn away this destructive Bill right now or you will be held responsible to GOD)</p> <p>Please vote NO on this HB22-1279! CHOOSE LIFE! Protect and defend all LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS...just like you swore an oath to do. It's not complicated, let GOD be God! Choose right now the right way, choose life for ALL people!</p>
<p>Kay Baker Against Self</p>	<p>Every individual, I believe, does have a right to use or refuse contraception, BUT, I DO NOT believe every pregnant individual has a fundamental right to have an abortion! I believe EVERY pregnant individual has the fundamental right to continue their pregnancy AND to give birth! A fertilized egg, embryo, and/or a fetus are now LIVING and very much should have independent and/or derivative rights, just</p>

	<p>as living people do! Preborn babies still have RIGHTS, as we do as American citizens! THEY ARE STILL BABIES!!! This is the most radical and absurd abortion Bill in the United States! This bill is way too EXTREME, HEARTLESS, and UNCARING for Colorado! I am making a stand for LIFE, and HOPE YOU DO AS WELL! Every person, born or preborn, has RIGHTS and DESERVES TO LIVE! Preborn babies deserve to be protected under the law, NOT SENTENCED TO DEATH BY IT!!! I URGE A NO VOTE BY ALL, and much consideration by all you who are living and breathing and NOT ABORTED! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!</p>
<p>Craig Baumgartner Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Legislators,</p> <p>I understand that many people believe in a woman's right to choose. I just believe that there should be some representation of the unborn child's choice. We can debate when life begins, when a fetus becomes viable, etc. But, I believe that, at some point, the unborn child should have rights, and would very likely choose to live. When does an unborn child deserve representation? If they are allowed representation in some circumstances, why not all circumstances?</p> <p>Thank you for reading this testimony. I hope and pray that you will make the best decision, in the best interests, of all of the people of Colorado. God bless you.</p>
<p>Jamille Moody Against Self</p>	<p>Equality- The first black woman president, the first gay president, the person to create a cure for cancer, the person to create a cure for Alzheimer's, the first person to walk on Mars- what could've been we'll never know- their life was taken from them before they even had the chance to breathe air into their lungs.</p> <p>We talk about speaking up for the marginalized, the weak, standing up for the victims of crimes. Yet with that same mouth we are silencing, oppressing and ultimately killing those in our society that are truly- to the highest degree victims of the most heinous crimes. Murder without trial, guilty only in having existed. Not by their own choice, but by the actions and choices of another, these mute humans are paying the ultimate price- their lives- for someone else's actions, choices. Discarded with last nights trash because they would be inconvenient for whatever reason.</p> <p>Where's the equality for these people? Where's the equal rights for every person that has been murdered in the womb? How can you possibly say abortion isn't murder because of the location- a womb versus an incubator? Because you can actually SEE the baby then it counts as a person?</p> <p>Delivering the baby's body out of the womb but leaving their head undelivered to then literally KILL them? What kind of truly barbaric</p>

	<p>ritual is this?? It's absolutely illogical and insanity- open your eyes and SEE what is going on.</p> <p>I am speaking up for the millions of silenced persons from every race- every background- every sex- every disability- STOP KILLING US!!! VOTE NO on the legalization of murder by abortion touted as "equal" rights. This is hypocrisy at its best.</p> <p>Please VOTE NO on HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA) . Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jamille Moody</p> <p>5060 Wagon Master Dr Colorado Springs, CO 80917 carter.jamille@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Amy Hayes Against Self</p>	<p>As a parent I have a right to be notified if my child is getting an invasive procedure with potential life threatening complications. The schools have to have my permission to give her a Tylenol yet abortion clinics can provide an abortion for her. That doesn't even make common sense and can end up doing much damage to young people. Partial birth abortion is inhumane and murder. Would we do that to an animal just because the animal is not wanted? People would be up in arms if we did that to an animal but somehow it's okay to do that to a human being. Babies in the womb are human beings just like puppies in the womb of a dog are baby dogs. Just because they are younger in age and are growing inside another's body doesn't change their DNA. Babies don't change from being non human to human magically once they are born, so they should have rights. They are among the most vulnerable of our population and can't speak for themselves so we must speak up on their behalf to protect them. Banning common sense health restrictions like requiring women to consult with a doctor before taking abortion pills is harmful to the very women this bill claims to protect. What could possibly be a good reason for a woman not to talk with a doctor first unless we don't care about the woman and her health and just want to promote abortion so abortion providers can make more money without having any responsibility for what could go wrong if a young girl can get these medications without consulting anyone about the risks involved. Banning options to prevent abortions based on sex, race or disability is barbaric. It's discriminating against human beings based on their race, sex or disability. How can we be so calloused and cruel and racist? Please do not pass this bill. I believe blood will be on your hands if you do. Sincerely, Amy Hayes</p>
<p>Samantha Alvarado Against</p>	<p>This bill is horrific. It removes parental rights to be notified of a daughter's abortion - a procedure that has potential life threatening</p>

<p>Self</p>	<p>complications. A school needs permission to give children over the counter medications, yet abortion clinics can provide abortions to minors with no consent. Now, this bill would even remove any knowledge that the procedure has even occurred, so a parent will have no idea how to help their child should sepsis, a punctured intestine/bowel, or extreme blood loss occur. Additionally, emotional and psychological impacts can occur, and a parent will have no idea the source of such complications or how to address them. Furthermore, partial birth abortion is universally known as murder of an infant. The baby is ready for birth, yet this bill would allow a medical provider to kill it as it is born? Whomever crafted this bill is highly irresponsible.</p>
<p>Jennice Casady Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Health &amp; Insurance Committee Representatives,</p> <p>My name is Jennice Casady, and I am a native of Colorado. I am writing you today because you will be voting on the HB22-1279 bill, called Reproductive Health Equity Act. This bill hurts women, and unborn babies.</p> <p>This bill will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ban the state of Colorado from providing any rights to unborn babies</li> <li>• Bans parental notification or age restrictions on abortion</li> <li>• Invalidates all existing and future local abortion restrictions</li> <li>• Bans common-sense health restrictions on abortion, like requiring women to consult with a doctor before taking abortion pills</li> <li>• Bans options to prevent abortions based on sex, race, or disability</li> </ul> <p>This bill happily seeks to make Colorado a travel destination for the killing of unborn babies with no restrictions whatsoever.</p> <p>All the women in my life that I know that have had abortions, regret them, especially when they have children later, and realize through the ultra sounds that their baby has a heartbeat, eyes, fingers, sucks it's thumb, does flips, moves around, and can hear his/her mother talking, and that's why babies recognize their mother's voice when they are born. Each unborn baby has it's own unique DNA, and blood type that is separate from the mother.</p> <p>This bill undermines what health truly is. Health is supposed to protect, and to make one well, and to fully inform the women of all her choices for herself and her unborn baby, and this bill states that as interference. The first part of the Hippocratic Oath for medical students is, "do no harm". This bill blocks the rights of doctors to "do no harm" because they will be forced to do the will of the state because they won't be able to deny an abortion, if this bill passes.</p>

	<p>Please vote No on bill HB22-1279 for the sake of women, unborn babies, and doctors. All life matters including yours. "A life is a life no matter how small", a quote from Dr. Seuss.</p> <p>Thank you for listening, Jennice Casady, Brighton CO 80602</p>
<p>Apryl Sweat Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Representatives of the House Health &amp; Insurance Committee,</p> <p>Please vote NO on HB22-1279. The Reproductive Health Equity Act is a direct assault on families and children. The people of Colorado and the United States of America have the right to life. Codifying that an unborn child has no rights simply because it is dependent on its mother for survival is exactly the same as codifying that a day-old child has no rights because it is dependent on its mother. Our world already discriminates against people who are 'less-than' because of their abilities or non-abilities. There is nothing in this bill that provides equity. It blatantly defines a subgroup of people who are 'less than' and declares them unworthy to live or have any rights.</p> <p>Our state and communities need more people who are respectful, caring, and compassionate. If passed into law, HB22-1279 would send a strong message to the good people of Colorado that they should NOT respect themselves, they should NOT respect babies or children, and they should NOT respect parents or authority. Our people already suffer from disrespect and hate. This bill exacerbates the feelings of hate towards a group of people who certain individuals consider 'less-than'.</p> <p>The fiscal analysis of this proposed bill is also a complete lie and shows a lack of knowledge on the subject matter. This bill would inflate the need for legal counsel to defend the state of Colorado from the legal ramifications of defending and enforcing this bill. Fewer doctors and nurses would want to practice in the state of Colorado because their consciences and personal values would be violated by forcing them to become murderers. This would inflate the costs of our health system, which is already terrible. Good doctors and nurses in the state of Colorado do not want to accept Medicaid because it does not cover the costs associated with medical care. The people of Colorado cannot afford another systematic price increase on health care.</p> <p>Please vote NO on HB22-1279.</p> <p>With Respect, Apryl Sweat Mother and Defender of Innocence</p>
<p>Diana Bara Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Representatives:</p> <p>I am opposed to HB22-1279 the Reproductive Health Equity Act, and it should not make it to the house floor. It is the most extreme bill</p>

	<p>regarding abortion and far exceeds Roe vs Wade. This bill is an insult to women and their right to choose. We do not want or need a law that permits infanticide. This bill will legalize the killing of a human being in the womb at any stage of pregnancy, even until the moment of birth, and make it into a state law. This is not what Coloradans want. We value the life of our unborn children who are innocent and cannot speak for themselves. If passed this bill will deny the rights of human beings in the womb. Yes a human being in utero is still a human, not a dog or a cat, at any stage of growth from a fertilized egg, to an embryo, fetus and birth. A human being in utero has the right to live and needs you to protect them not terminate them. Kill the bill not our children.</p>
<p>Heidi Ganahl Against Self</p>	<p>This legislation is not what the people of Colorado want. HB 1279 is the most extreme abortion law in the nation. Elected officials bear the responsibility of speaking for the wants and needs of their constituents, not forcing laws without the will of the people. This bill is not in line with the values of most Coloradans. Allowing abortions seconds before a child is born, and seconds after he or she takes their first breath is unimaginable. Please listen to all of Colorado and not simply those in your close circles that echo your extreme positions on this heartbreaking issue. I ask that you get back to solving the rising crime problem in our state, reducing the soaring cost of living from over-regulation and policies that make inflation worse, and making our education system better for our struggling children.</p>
<p>Marilyn Hughes For Self</p>	<p>HB22-1279. Reproductive Health Equity Act Health &amp; Insurance 1:30 pm   HCR 0112</p> <p>Dear Committee Members, My name is Marilyn Hughes and I am representing myself. I am urging you to vote yes on HB22-1279. This bill is long overdue in our state. Colorado women deserve to have control over their bodies. This bill will provide that. After 50 years of not having to worry whether needed medical help including abortion services was available there is real concern that the supreme court will overturn Roe v Wade. Not having our state's clear protection for reproductive rights is a danger for women and their families. The bill declares that every individual has a fundamental right to use or refuse contraception; every pregnant individual has a fundamental right to continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion; and a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state. Women deserve to have control over their own bodies. We are not chattel. The wave of anti-abortion legislation across our country is troubling and HB22-1279 will protect Colorado women. The point of the bill is choice that should be a woman's prerogative. Again please vote yes on HB22-1279</p>
<p>Becky Moin Against</p>	<p>I do not support this bill! It's against the values and rights of so many. I hope this will be considered!</p>

Self	
Ashley Sandoval Against Self	I am strongly opposed to this bill. To state that humans in the womb have no rights is disgusting and demonic. Abortion is not "reproductive health care" it is taking the life of an innocent child. More disgusting is that this bill would allow infanticide which, by definition, is MURDER. I strongly urge you to vote no against this atrocity.
Joyce Brown Against Self	<p>Good afternoon, Madam Chair Representative Lontine and members of the House Health and Insurance Committee.</p> <p>My name is Joyce Zounis Brown. Though I called the greater Denver area home for 21 years from 1999 to 2020, I now live in South Carolina.</p> <p>As a female born woman, motherhood is something I rejected for eleven years through multiple abortions. I am a person with rights and autonomy to my body. Like many today, I supported abortion. Also, like many today, I now share a different story.</p> <p>How can I be in this mindset, space?</p> <p>Reality is, I committed violence in my womb against my alive children.</p> <p>To say these words and acknowledge this truth, is MOST troubling.</p> <p>As promised, abortion DID NOT empower me. Instead, a decade long wake had followed with harmful traumatic physical complications including mental health issues, high risk pregnancies, premature births, and placenta previa which ended my reproduction health.</p> <p>My children whom I had called problems, hinderances, so easily removed, have been grieved for 30 years.</p> <p>The scale of injustice and suffering in the women of the Colorado and beyond, there are many of us, begins in the womb. Abortion is a crime against humanity, to the preborn child in the womb and to the woman of the womb.</p> <p>Abortion is not an easy answer to a difficult space. It is a freedom less moment that relentlessly haunts you regardless if chosen by circumstance or choice.</p> <p>Wherever you go, there you are.</p> <p>Whether a medical or surgical abortion, one who tells another it is ok, the driver to the abortion appointment, even a legislator who votes to support abortion; one day this truth is known and your soul will sorrow with consequences.</p> <p>Protect Colorado's future and her womb.</p>

	<p>This former abortion patient asks you to OPPOSE HB 1279.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Kristin Ellsworth Against Self</p>	<p>Dear sponsors of this bill, I am shocked that this bill is even being brought forth for a vote. I strongly oppose this extreme abortion bill. This is a radical bill that takes the rights away from parents to know whether their young teen has had an abortion. You are relying on a scared pregnant teenager to make a life altering decision without informing the parents. So wrong on so many levels. There should be a requirement for the parent to know and for the teen and parent to view the ultrasound together. Taking away the voice of the unborn is wrong. Every human should have rights, especially the right to live. Partial birth abortion is infanticide. You are ripping a human from their mother's womb. How is anyone ok whether you are Republican or Democrat in killing a full term baby? This is pure evil. The mother of the baby needs to be informed and she needs to be required to see her baby on an ultrasound and then and only then will she be able to make her decision. I beg you to really search your heart and not pass this extreme bill that will alter lives and humanity. Please do not pass the most extreme abortion bill in the state of Colorado. Sincerely, Kristin Ellsworth</p>
<p>Kelly Lester Against And Then There Were None</p>	<p>My name is Kelly Lester, I had my first at age 15. No one went over the risks or alternatives with me. My informed consent was a piece of paper handed to me that I at 15 was to read and initial. When scared and in crisis, how capable are you of making a life-changing decision from an explanation on a piece of paper? How often do you even read information given that way?  Women are suffering silently from the assault from this procedure.. I've witnessed it firsthand as a patient and as an employee in an abortion facility.  As an employee in the clinic, I understood from my training that once a woman came in, it was our job to convince her to have an abortion. Our employees were not certified or licensed as counselors. I was a bartender before they hired me. Our patients were like me, terrified and looking for help. We did not offer help: we only offered abortion. Not one time did we refer women for adoption give resources for parenting or provide for any of her needs except abortion. We rushed to get them in and out without explaining the risks from the procedure or telling them when their procedure had a dangerous complication. I left the abortion industry because of the consistent number of women who were injured in a procedure and not told what had happened to them. Our record</p>

	<p>keeping was sloppy, medication dispersement reckless.corners were cut and lines blurred for the sake of a profit.</p> <p>Why is it that our poor and minority populations who supposedly need the services that abortion providers give are not given the same standard of care that their counter parts receive.</p> <p>Why do we trust giving all the information to women about all other hard to understand medical decisions like hysterectomy and mastectomy but not the “simple” medical procedure of abortion?</p> <p>We deserve better than this.II live knowing that I was betrayed by the people I trusted to help me, and then I repeated this violation to so many women. Why don’t women deserve the whole truth?</p> <p>Protect women from the ongoing assault of the abortion industry by opposing this bill today.</p>
<p>Rebecca Heath Against Self</p>	<p>To the House Health and Insurance Committee,</p> <p>I am testifying against HB22-1279, and I am asking, as a citizen of Colorado, that you represent those you have been elected to represent. The issue of unrestricted access to abortion at any time, by any means is inexcusable and barbaric. It takes a difficult situation and turns it into a tragedy, victimizing the MOST innocent and the MOST vulnerable among us. There are other means by which to help those with unwanted pregnancies. We do not have to kill an unborn child to find a solution. I am appalled that in the year 2022 we are still fighting for the right to murder our own children. In another state, THIS YEAR, they are trying to pass a bill that allows a woman to kill her baby legally up to 4 weeks post birth! Where is the end?!?! How can we justify ANY murder of ANY infant at ANY stage of development. We must find our moral legs and take a stand.</p> <p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Will legalize the killing of a human being in the womb at any stage of pregnancy, even until the moment of birth, and make it into a state law.</li> <li>*It declares that a woman has a fundamental right to end the life of her baby.</li> <li>*It wants to achieve "racial equity" by targeting "people of color," people with low incomes" as well as individuals in rural areas.</li> <li>*RHEA absolutely disregards the rights of human beings in the womb. Even animals have more protection than our defenseless babies and vulnerable women.</li> <li>*It allows unrestricted abortion access which opens the doors for children/teenagers to have an abortion without parental involvement.</li> <li>*It perpetuates the lie that killing a human being is "Reproductive Health Care."</li> <li>*It doesn't protect women undergoing abortion. RHEA prioritizes abortion over the health and safety of women.</li> </ul>

	<p>*The Bill supports taking the life of preborn babies even if the baby has the "wrong sex," "wrong race," or has disabilities. This bill supports racist, sexist and discriminatory practices.</p> <p>*RHEA does nothing to address the root problems that a woman faces that drives her to consider an abortion.</p> <p>Please support Reason and Reality and vote No on this bill. Remember, this is an extreme bill that legalizes killing babies up to birth, and this is an election year....</p> <p>Sincerely, Rebecca Heath</p>
<p>Cindy Barr Against Self</p>	<p>This bill will be very destructive to families, women, men, and children. Allowing abortion up to birth will have detrimental effects physically and emotionally. We keep saying to trust the science and science has proven over and over again that life begins at conception. We need to be making bills on making adoption more affordable or women having access to pre/postnatal care</p>
<p>Robert Froehlke Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Honorable Committee Members,</p> <p>I appreciate your time in accepting and reading my written testimony. I write to you to express my <b>STRONG</b> opposition to HB22-1279. This proposed legislation would codify abortion in Colorado without restriction. Such legislation would allow abortion at any time during a pregnancy, even up to the due date and time of birth.</p> <p>I am a pediatrician, and during my more than 30 years of practice, I have cared for thousands of babies born prematurely. This extreme legislation would allow for the killing of infants who are fully viable outside of the womb. This is radical, extreme legislation, coming to the edge of legalizing infanticide in Colorado.</p> <p>Further, this radical, extreme legislation would allow abortion for any reason – including aborting due to the sex of the baby, or other genetic characteristics. I have a son with Down Syndrome. He is a joy, and his life has brought joy to all it has touched. Sadly, many babies with Down Syndrome are aborted only because they have Down Syndrome. This extreme, radical legislation would not only codify the aborting of babies with Down Syndrome, but those with any other genetic characteristic, including their sex.</p> <p>Allowing abortions for any reason, at any time, without any restrictions, is extreme and radical. It is tantamount to legalizing genocide. It is legislation that would have Colorado join the ranks of China and North Korea.</p> <p>I respectfully request that you do not support the extreme radical legislation proposed in HB22-1279.</p> <p>Respectfully, Robert G. Froehlke, M.D., F.A.A.P.</p>

<p>Gerard Klazura Against Self</p>	<p>Extremely great evils have been legal within societies in the past (e.g., slavery in the U.S.A. and extermination of Jews by the Nazi Regime). Open wounds and scars of these atrocities remain today, as we still struggle with racial inequities, and just last year a 95 year old German lady was arrested in Germany and charged with complicity in the murders of 10,000 people for having worked as a secretary at a Nazi concentration camp.</p> <p>But the greatest evil of all time is happening right now with legal abortion – the intentional murder of innocent human beings in the womb. This is a war against humanity. The sponsors say that their bill is supported by “Catholics for Choice”. Therefore I think it is important to try to balance the support from this “Catholic” organization by telling you what the leader of the Catholic Church (Pope Francis) has to say about this topic. Pope Francis has been quoted: (1) “Whoever commits an abortion, murders,” and (2) “abortion is an absolute evil” and (3) “I have been very clear – abortion is homicide and it is not licit to become complicit.” And it is important to emphasize here – that anyone who supports this bill is totally complicit in this evil.</p> <p>This proposed bill is evil to the greatest depth. It even allows the baby to be murdered when partially out of the womb as she struggles for that first breath of air. Abortion is Satan’s greatest achievement as babies die with a silent scream that no one hears.</p>
<p>Domica Renner Against Self</p>	<p>HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA)</p> <p>This is an extreme measure in an attempt to fix a perceived issue. In doing so, larger, more profound, and longer lasting devastation on the human race as a whole will result. Life begins at conception. To vote yes on this bill says that somehow a woman has the right to choose when a child is alive. Sometimes when a woman wants to have a child, the positive pregnancy test means life is already growing. Though she might not have even felt a kick, to this woman, the child is already alive. And another that was caught off guard by a new child, determines this life is a blob, or unwanted debris to remove? Even with the baby kicking within her... What if a mother took her child home from the hospital and killed the child. Would it be murder? But that same child could be legally killed only 1 day earlier with the help of a doctor it is not a crime. Every human being should understand the hypocrisy in that, and feel this deep wound that this bill would inflict on the human soul. This is just wrong.</p> <p>The #1 cause of death in the world in 2021 was abortion. This is far more of a pandemic than Covid will ever be.</p>
<p>Pamela Poll Against Self</p>	<p>This bill puts Colorado in the same league as barbaric Communist nations like North Korea and China in its total disregard for human rights and the FACT that it is talking about a human being developing in the womb. It's comical to me that Democrats are the ones pushing these extreme views in light of their supposed concern for the oppressed</p>

	<p>and the victim. Second trimester abortion as a procedure allows children to be ripped apart limb from limb without anesthesia using a sopher clamp and removed from the womb. Then the head is crushed and removed. In a 3rd trimester abortion the baby is injected with high dose Digoxin to cause fatal cardiac arrest. Then labor is induced to deliver the dead baby. This bill is evil and anyone who votes for it is participating in the death of the children who will lose their lives because of it. What has happened to your conscience? The people of Colorado do not support this and if they were shown the two procedure videos below would be horrified to know our state allows these inhumane practices to continue. Please vote no because you are a fellow human being who was once in the same stage of development as these children who are being slaughtered in the womb for any reason. It's too horrific to be allowed by any decent thoughtful person.</p> <p>Doctor explains a 2nd trimester abortion.  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgw4X7Dw_3k&amp;t=15s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgw4X7Dw_3k&amp;t=15s</a>                  Doctor explains a 3rd trimester abortion.</p>
<p>Courtney Davenport                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>My name is Courtney Davenport and I am a registered voter in Colorado. I wanted to share my testimony related to abortion. When my mother in law was a teen she got pregnant and was encouraged by her mother to have an abortion so she could focus more on her schooling. While she was under the anesthesia God gave her a dream and allowed her to feel the pain and horror the child was going through. A little while later she became pregnant again but this time knew she couldn't have the abortion because of her earlier experience. She decided to have the baby and gave birth to my future wife and the mother of my children.</p> <p>Unplanned or unpleasant circumstances are never an excuse to take a life. Life is valuable not because it is convenient but because it is a gift from God. Everyone has this right!</p> <p>Thanks for your time and I pray you have wisdom to make the right choice.</p>
<p>Dorothea Erwin                  For                  Self</p>	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I am a family nurse practitioner and certified nurse midwife and I am writing to testify in favor of the Reproductive Health Equity Act. This bill ensures access to contraceptives and abortions for all people of reproductive age, which supports reproductive justice in our state. Reproductive justice is the basic human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities. In my practice, I support all individuals right to make these decisions for themselves and their families without any form of coercion or political interference. This bill is a step towards securing reproductive justice in our communities, especially those that are marginalized. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Sharla Jerrow                  Against</p>	<p>Dear Mrs. Froelich,</p>

Self	<p>My name is Sharla Jerrow. Mother to 4 beautiful young people. This bill in and of itself is sickening to say the least. I volunteer with women who face crisis during pregnancy as I was once in their position. I can tell you without a doubt I never regret choosing life for my littles but I have spoken with women who were devastated for years after abortions. Up to birth abortions are NEVER medically necessary! This act is entirely inhumane. I would ask have you ever been witness to a partial birth abortion? You should know 100% what you are in favor of. These procedures would bring anyone with a heart to tears immediately. The unjust sentence those innocent babies are being dealt is truly indescribable. I ask you, a women who has been given an opportunity at life to consider your ways and what this act would invoke. With all love and respect, Sharla Jerrow</p>
Cassie Kimbrell Against Self	<p>My name is Cassie Kimbrell and my daughter was born here and saved here. I come to you this morning as a mom. I was skipped during the virtual hearing, but wanted to send my written testimony, though I'm sure this bill will be voted on soon and no one will read this until it's too late.</p> <p>My pregnancy wasn't perfect. Every appointment I went to, I never received good news and that I had too much amniotic fluid. Doctors seemed worried. I was constantly pressured by doctors to know I could end it. My husband never missed an appointment and felt all these same pressures, but we knew we wanted to give our child the best we could, no matter the outcome. We always heard her heartbeat, feel her move, and would sing and read to her.</p> <p>My daughter came early. My daughter was born with Esophageal Atresia, which means her esophagus wasn't connected to her stomach and her trachea was connected to her esophagus. She also has vonWillebrand's Disease type 2b, a bleeding disorder that is fifth generation in my family.</p> <p>When we were asked if we wanted to save her life after delivery, and send her to Children's, there was no doubt. We knew we needed to try and save her, no matter what happened. She was repaired at two days and has had only one dilation, but she's thriving. The doctors told us of all the worst case scenarios, but babies and children are resilient. The NICU says they can save babies born at 15 weeks more now than ever. If she was born 15 years prior and with our bleeding disorder, she might have not made it. The tech we have today can save babies now more than ever.</p> <p>I oppose this bill because we need to give all lives a chance and recognize fetuses as babies and as individuals with rights. Our government needs to protect all life, includes fetuses with heartbreaks. This bill also removes the rights of the dads and other parents to have a</p>

	<p>say in this. It's discrimination on who has the perfect pregnancy or who decides the outcome for the baby if there are disabilities. Her birth defect does not effect her day-to-day quality of life, but instead makes her unique to the world! If you met her, you wouldn't even know she had all this done to her!</p> <p>Please oppose this bill in it's entirety by giving babies their individual rights. Abortion is not conception. I'm proud we didn't give up on our daughter and hope we can fight for all children to thrive. This is a crime against humanity.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Rich Bennett Against Life Network</p>	<p>Members of the committee,</p> <p>My name is Rich Bennett, and I'm president of Life Network which operates the three Colorado Springs Pregnancy Centers. I believe Colorado is better than a bill that codifies abortion up until birth, including abortions based on race, sex or disability. This bill conflicts with modern science ... basic human rights ... and what's healthiest for young people in Colorado.</p> <p>Today, science tells us so much more about when life definitively begins than when Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973.</p> <p>Under the care of our medical director, our pregnancy centers provided 786 free ultrasounds to women facing unexpected pregnancies last year. The women who receive these ultrasounds can see their baby's heart beating just under 6 weeks into pregnancy. At 10 weeks, they come face to face with their baby's wiggling fingers and toes. No longer can a reasonable person say it's a blob of cells.</p> <p>If you choose to ignore these truths, what is indisputable is that babies are routinely born healthy as early as 21 weeks into pregnancy. I am personally aware of a baby girl within the last few days who was born at 21 weeks – 1 pound, 1 oz and just 7" long (basically the size of a pack of butter), and this baby girl's health is increasingly improving. Science and medical advances clearly demonstrate that babies at 21+ weeks are viable human lives worthy of protection.</p> <p>Only Communist China, Communist Vietnam, Communist North Korea, and currently a small number of US states allow abortion up until birth without little or no restriction. Is this the company our state wants when it comes to abortion law?</p> <p>What weighs in the balance with this bill is nothing short of life and death ... human decency vs human destruction ... healthy teens or devastated ones. I ask that you vote in a way that is not cavalier about extinguishing human life – and vote no on this bill. Thank you.</p>

	Sincerely, Rich Bennett
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TO: the Members of the State House Health and Insurance Committee,

I am writing to you today to speak on HB22-1279, a bill so frightening that if passed it will wipe out thousands if not millions of babies in Colorado. Millions of babies that will never see the light of day. Mothers and Fathers who will be denied parenthood over the lies of "it's not a baby", and told they are incapable of being parents. There is no greater Love than that between a parent and a child. This bill goes against science more importantly against God. The good people of Colorado deserve better.

Instead, we could help these desperate parents. We could counsel them, see to their needs, help them to feel confident in taking care of their children. If they feel they are not ready to be parents, introduce them to adoption; it is the humane way. There are many parents ready to adopt. Educate on the consequences of having sex that leads to unplanned pregnancies. This bill removes the requirement that parents of minors be notified if their minor receives an abortion. Minors are incapable of making life or death decisions.

Healthcare not only addresses physical needs but mental and emotional needs also; it does not kill. Abortion is the murder of babies. It goes against our human nature and humanity. It leaves many parents emotionally broken, regretful, depressed and in a lot of cases even suicidal by their hasty decision. These babies cannot be replaced. This Bill will eradicate families and cement the Culture of Death here in Colorado. Why on earth would you want to deny Life to the most innocent and precious among us that only bring out the best in us.

There have been a reported 63 million abortions performed in the U.S since Roe vs. Wade was passed. Even among Colorado citizens who agree with abortion, most say that abortion still needs limits. This bill "prohibits a public entity from denying, restricting, interfering with, or discriminating against an individual's reproductive rights". This bill will, in fact, prohibit and deny any public entity, any open conversation, statistics, education, counseling or scientific documentation that is contrary to the pro-abortion narrative. In other words, it will deny the good people of Colorado our First Amendment Rights under our U.S. Constitution.

This bill falsely asserts it can determine the point at which a person's life is valuable. It will force Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers, doctors and nurses to provide abortions against their conscience in order to stay in business. Life begins at conception and lasts until natural death. May God soften your Hearts to say no to HB22-129. Thank you for your time.

House Health & Insurance  
03/09/2022 01:30 PM  
HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act  
Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Virginia Gebhart For Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care	<p>Please vote yes to pass this bill. If enacted it will provide peace of mind to health care providers and patients alike. Health care professionals will be able to provide care and patients will be able to seek care without fear of interference from outsiders. The most personal and private health care decisions will remain private.</p> <p>Please vote yes to pass this bill so that individuals will retain dominion over their own bodies and lives. These freedoms must be retained for all individuals, including those who have historically been abused or underserved within the American Medical Industrial Complex.</p> <p>Please vote yes to pass this bill. Providing appropriate health care to all individuals is good for individuals and good for the community and nation.</p>
Jerry Nelson Against Self	Please vote "NO." To deny an independent human being the "right" to be born is even more egregiously evil than the denial of full humanity to so many "people of color" in an earlier century. By every scientific measure, the unborn fetus is an independent being, not a part of the mother's body, and dependent on her only to the same degree as after birth. If we call it criminal to kill the baby one month after birth, by what logic would we consider it less criminal one month before birth? Please vote "NO."
Thomas Jensen Against Self	Dear Members of the Health and Insurance Committee, I am writing as both a physician-scientist, parent writing against Reproductive Health Equity Act. As a physician, I take pride assisting my patients who are pregnant to ensure they receive the best health care possible for them and their child. This includes ensuring certain medications that will not lead for instance to an increased risk of birth defects or pregnancy related complications as well as treating endocrinological conditions to improve outcomes for moms and their babies. These actions as a healthcare provider to ensure the health of both therefore show in the healthcare community we give value to the life inside the mother, not just the mother only. Even new technologies today have been done on preborn children and here in Colorado we have world leading team that does these procedures. On their website they state "fetal surgery utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to diagnosing and treating a number of fetal health conditions or complications that develop during pregnancy. This kind of surgery requires expertise and state-of-the-art technology to ensure the best possible outcomes for both mom and her unborn baby. At the Colorado Fetal Care Center at Children's Hospital Colorado, we offer world-class

	<p>open fetal surgery catered to each specific patient.” The Colorado Fetal Care Center recognizes the unborn child as a patient. Hence, by this law which states the fetus has absolutely no rights, you run counter and devalue this great work that we as healthcare providers recognize.</p> <p>Finally as a parent, my concern over the complete removal of parental rights in healthcare decisions or even notifications. In Colorado, Planned Parenthood here in Denver was caught failing to report abuse of a 13 year old girl, despite putting her age down, and returned her to her step father in 2012. Court papers reveal that the stepfather, who also wanted the girl to be given a form of birth control she did not want, was sexually abusing her. The girl’s mother later discovered the abuse and reported the perpetrator to law enforcement. She testified that Planned Parenthood did not notify her of her daughter’s abortion, as they are required under Colorado law. Hence parental notification is important in helping to deter ongoing sexual abuse.</p>
<p>Warren Jaeger Against Self</p>	<p>March 7, 2022</p> <p>SUBJECT: HB 22-1279</p> <p>TO: Colorado General Assembly House Health and Insurance Committee</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to HB 22-1279. This bill codifies the right to abortion at any stage of pregnancy, up to the moment of birth, for any reason (or for no reason at all). This is a direct assault on the value of preborn human life. Yes, preborn human life IS human life, genetically distinct from either the mother or father. To state otherwise requires rather profound bioethical gymnastics. Every pregnancy involves three human lives – the mother, the father, and the preborn. Despite using “Health” and “Equity” in its title, HB 22-1279 states that a “fertilized egg” (zygote), “embryo”, or “fetus” has no rights whatsoever. These terms are, in fact, not references to some “non human” or “prehuman” existence, but to normal stages of prenatal development, just as “neonate”, “infant”, “child”, and “adolescent” apply to stages of development following birth.</p> <p>Before you vote on HB 22-1279, I would encourage each member to view an abortion procedure first hand, as I was required to do early in my medical training. At that time, the most common abortion procedures were suction D &amp; C (for early pregnancies) or intrauterine saline injection (for more advanced pregnancies). My duties were to examine the “products of conception” (fetal body parts) in the suction container, in the case of a suction D &amp; C, or to examine the fully formed scalded (by the saline) lifeless body of the fetus, in the case if a saline injection, to assure that the abortion was “complete”. More current</p>

	<p>abortion procedures, such as dismemberment abortion or partial birth abortion, would be even more gruesome. If you cannot, or will not, view an abortion procedure, please view a 4 D pregnancy ultrasound to see what intrauterine life looks like.</p> <p>One appropriate role of laws in our society is to protect the rights of the weak and helpless from the loud and powerful. The unborn – the smallest and least powerful among us – deserve our protection. I am saddened that HB 22-1279 offers no recognition nor protection of preborn human life. In fact, it does just the opposite.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Warren P. Jaeger, MD, FAAFP</p>
<p>MaryEllen Swafford Against Self</p>	<p>To the Health House and Insurance Committee, RE:Reproductive health and Equity Act</p> <p>I am strongly AGAINST this bill you are trying to pass. I am speaking up for the unborn that can not speak for themselves. Abortion is murder plain and simple. If someone decided they did not want any of you around and they took your life they would go to prison for murder. Everyone's life is important and ordained by God himself. It plainly says in the Bible (yes I am one of those) that God knows us before we are even born and HE personally knits us together in our Mothers womb. We don't get the right or choice to take that life.</p> <p>So once again I say with every fiber of my being I am AGAINST this bill and am very saddened that you all think this is even remotely ok to do to an innocent life!</p> <p>Thank You, MaryEllen Swafford</p>
<p>Trina Konrath Against Self</p>	<p>Please do not support HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA). It's too radical for Colorado. I have a dear friend who when she was pregnant three doctors insisted that she have an abortion. She found one doctor who said he would help her along with her pregnancy. Her son is now 21! Perfectly healthy! It would be a tragedy if this young man had been aborted. Please do not support this.</p>
<p>Sheila Ryan Against Self</p>	<p>Please look into your heart ! Ending a human life at any stage is wrong ! It's a baby !!! A culture that kills their own offspring is doomed !!</p>
<p>Laura Davis Against Self</p>	<p>In section 1 subsection (f) the bill states "Colorado voters have demonstrated that they trust individuals to make their own ethical decisions about abortion care based on what is best for their health and their families." Therefore, for consistency and general public acceptance of this modification to Colorado law, this bill should be brought before the general public as a vote, not enacted behind closed doors with no regard to public opinion.</p> <p>Section 2. 25-6-403.(3) "A FERTILIZED EGG, EMBRYO, OR FETUS DOES NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT OR DERIVATIVE RIGHTS UNDER</p>

	<p>THE LAWS OF THIS STATE." This is an absolute travesty that will prevent the proper prosecution of offenders that cause the death of an unborn child. CO Rev Stat § 18-3.5-104 (2017) states that "(1) A person commits the offense of unlawful termination of pregnancy in the second degree if the person knowingly causes the unlawful termination of the pregnancy of a woman.</p> <p>(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), unlawful termination of pregnancy in the second degree is a class 4 felony." As this law demonstrates, in some form, Colorado law has recognized the value of an unborn child even if it has not outright stated that they have their own rights and personhood under the law. In effect, this bill would undermine the proper prosecution of criminal acts against women by the outlandish statement that Colorado law provides no protection whatsoever to the unborn.</p>
<p>Michelle Duft Against Self</p>	<p>This legislation attempts to secure the assumed "right" of a mother, yet specifically DENIES the life and humanity of a baby in whatever stages of pregnancy, even up until the moment of birth when it is obvious that the child is fully formed and ALIVE beyond any doubt or definition. The bill suggests that women have "fundamental" rights, but the fetus growing within them has none and isn't legally worthy of protection under the law.</p> <p>This is merely an attempt to preemptively secure legislation in our state that allows for the "justifiable" termination of life, and necessarily includes the potential dismemberment and subsequent disposal of often fully formed babies as "waste", and quite probably, the dissection of body parts of unborn babies with a heartbeat, who may even be fully capable of life outside the womb, and may potentially be prepared for sale in the name of science or medicine, even when only hours away from birth. One cannot truly justify late term abortions, when only days, or weeks later, outside of the womb, a "fetus" is now considered alive and protectable to the full extent of the law. These practices are a stain on our entire nation. Millions of America's children have been sacrificed on the altar of abortion for the sake of a mother's fears or convenience, and for the ultimate profit of abortion giants who have deep pockets, and strong political pull. Politicians support and tolerate abortion because lobbyists and outspoken feminists have decided to define what is best. None of these seem to wince at the exploitation of the unborn. This nation and it's government was formed to protect and defend inalienable rights, which include the right to live! Fundamental rights are for EVERY individual-- especially the helpless and even the unborn! Just because a baby hasn't taken a first breath, or isn't wanted by it's mother, we should deny their rights? These excuses would NEVER justify child abandonment or abuse of an older child. We spend so much time in recognizing children's rights, animal rights, and human rights of all kinds, how can a human life with blood flow, brain activity, heartbeat, and motion be dismissed merely because it is temporarily</p>

	<p>dependent on it's mother to sustain it's life. There are many other options to these women which are not even explored because of the blood lust of organizations like Planned Parenthood. I ask you to stand up for those who cannot stand for themselves, and reject this legislation.</p>
<p>Margarita Nelson Against Self</p>	<p>It is scientific fact that a human begins forming from the moment of conception. A baby is a miracle and should be protected. Abortion is a barbaric and heinous act against a human. Many, many women who have abortions suffer emotionally and mentally for years. I urge you to not defend abortion.</p>
<p>Kerry Hernandez Against Self</p>	<p>I would like to urge this committee to vote against the radical and racist bill HB22-1279. You might be asking yourselves why I say racist. It is because the radical groups wanting to pass this bill are the same groups trying to shove late term abortion down our throats. My family is half White, half Hispanic. Every time a Hispanic woman in my family gets pregnant, she gets bombarded with literature and fliers about abortion, especially late term abortion. This happened to me too because my last name is Hispanic. Although interestingly, it never happened to me when I was pregnant with a white last name. I find this highly offensive and painful. It is a statistical known fact that far more abortions happen in Hispanic and black families than in white families in Colorado. You know why? Because the groups pushing this bill are constantly telling Hispanic and Black women that they can't raise their babies as well as white women can! They target them telling them they aren't as competent as white women are! The women in my family talk about this and it makes us all feel sad. This bill is nothing more than another attempt at ethnic cleansing in our state disguised as women's rights! This is why these groups are pressuring the Hispanic women to slaughter their babies all of the time! This bill will work to further destroy Hispanic families in Colorado. I don't mean any disrespect to this committee. But if you vote on this bill, I believe the blood of our slaughtered Hispanic babies is on your hands and all the pain it inflicts on our families is too! Three of my children are half-Hispanic and I was pressured to abort all three by these groups. Thankfully, I did not listen! This bill will further empower, not women, but these high pressure groups to continue badgering the Hispanic women in my circle of family and friends telling them that their babies are just trash! We are tired of that! Rather than voting for bills that will result in the derailing of more Hispanic women and the slaughter of their babies, I would like to see you vote for better bills that encourage and empower Hispanic women that they can successfully raise their children and their families. I would like to also add that this bill would further remove protections on women and girls who are forced into abortion or pressured against their will. This happens far too often in our state. I pray that you will do the right thing and vote against this bill. Thank you, Kerry Hernandez</p>
<p>Chester Malouf Against Self</p>	<p>HB22-1279 and bills that are brought up before the committee of such likes is something sonorous that shouldn't even need to be debated. When did the murdering of a child in the mother's womb become Healthcare? When did death become Healthcare? And how come the</p>

	<p>child doesn't have a right or a say in the matter. This is why we speak for The Unborn child, because they can't speak or defend their selves. At all stages a pregnancy from the time of conception to the time of delivery that child should have the same protection under the law for the right to life liberty and pursuit for happiness and not denied protection under the law. Whoever sheds man's blood so shall his blood be shed. This is a truth called capital punishment. This was designed for lawlessness and the lawbreakers who murder and shed innocent blood. And the lawbreakers are the ones that are shedding the innocent blood of a child in the mother's womb. This bill should be voted down. It is a bill that condemns be innocent, and a quits the guilty. There is no equality in this bill for the unborn child. Remember the committee is in charge of setting righteous standards. And this bill is an unrighteous standard. The committee is to judge rightly and righteously, and if not remember this. It is written the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against the ungodly and the unrighteous who suppress the truth. It is bills like these if past that is going to bring God's Wrath on America!</p>
<p>Patricia Gardiner Against Self</p>	<p>PLEASE VOTE NO - ASK BEFORE ACTING, RESPECT THE VOICE OF COLORADO RESIDENTS</p> <p>I have been a resident of Colorado since 1968. I have been proud of the respect shown in Colorado for the voice of its people. ASK then act has been the way Colorado handles major issues. We demonstrate that through the requirements we have concerning tax increases. We encourage new ideas and fresh faces to be part of our governance. We demonstrate that through our term limit requirements.</p> <p>This bill does not exhibit this kind of respect. Instead, by having the legislature &amp; governor make such a major healthcare law it disregards the will of the people who live here by not even ASKING if this is what we want.</p> <p>Major issues, like this, should be put on the ballot and voted on by all who call Colorado home. When this is not done, it divides us. Colorado residents respect the will of a majority our fellow residents, even when we don't agree on the issue. A fine example of this was legalizing marijuana. This was a hotly contested issue. We voted &amp; marijuana was legalized. We have accepted the results &amp; united on handling the results, both good &amp; bad, that came with that decision.</p> <p>Colorado was once a fairly traditional, or conservative, state. We are now a mix of traditional and progressive ideas. Notice I said we are a "mix". That means we still discuss our viewpoints &amp; listen to others, we are not divided. However, that open discourse is hanging on by a thread. Making this law, without hearing from Colorado residents, will be very harmful to the unity still exists.</p>

	<p>This is not an urgent health crisis. A lot has changed since the last election, but not in this area of women’s healthcare. Concern about a Supreme Court decision does not equate to an urgent healthcare crisis that requires action without first hearing from the people.</p> <p>If you are concerned, raise your concerns with the people who elect you. Make this part of your election platform. Raise public awareness. DO NOT just push through a law without doing the work of gathering support first. We have enough dividers in our country, don’t add to that. Please, be a uniter, Colorado needs more of them.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Trish Gardiner</p>
<p>Patricia Gardiner Against Self</p>	<p>PLEASE VOTE NO - ASK BEFORE ACTING, RESPECT THE VOICE OF COLORADO RESIDENTS</p> <p>I have been a resident of Colorado since 1968. I have been proud of the respect shown in Colorado for the voice of its people. ASK then act has been the way Colorado handles major issues. We demonstrate that through the requirements we have concerning tax increases. We encourage new ideas and fresh faces to be part of our governance. We demonstrate that through our term limit requirements.</p> <p>This bill does not exhibit this kind of respect. Instead, by having the legislature &amp; governor make such a major healthcare law it disregards the will of the people who live here by not even ASKING if this is what we want.</p> <p>Major issues, like this, should be put on the ballot and voted on by all who call Colorado home. When this is not done, it divides us. Colorado residents respect the will of a majority our fellow residents, even when we don’t agree on the issue. A fine example of this was legalizing marijuana. This was a hotly contested issue. We voted &amp; marijuana was legalized. We have accepted the results &amp; united on handling the results, both good &amp; bad, that came with that decision.</p> <p>Colorado was once a fairly traditional, or conservative, state. We are now a mix of traditional and progressive ideas. Notice I said we are a “mix”. That means we still discuss our viewpoints &amp; listen to others, we are not divided. However, that open discourse is hanging on by a thread. Making this law, without hearing from Colorado residents, will be very harmful to the unity still exists.</p> <p>This is not an urgent health crisis. A lot has changed since the last election, but not in this area of women’s healthcare. Concern about a Supreme Court decision does not equate to an urgent healthcare crisis that requires action without first hearing from the people.</p>

	<p>If you are concerned, raise your concerns with the people who elect you. Make this part of your election platform. Raise public awareness. DO NOT just push through a law without doing the work of gathering support first. We have enough dividers in our country, don't add to that. Please, be a uniter, Colorado needs more of them.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Trish Gardiner</p>
<p>Christopher Campbell Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote "No" on the Reproductive Health Equity Act. We believe, and science proves, that a human life starts at conception. We do not support any kind of murder or torture, whether the human is born or unborn. Though you may not believe in him, the truth is, this is an agenda straight from the devil who hates you and all people and would like to see us all dead and tortured. If your mother agreed with this bill, you wouldn't be here right now. Any short term benefit you get from agreeing with this act will ultimately turn into a nightmare for you. Agreeing with this act will also bring a curse and judgement against you, your family, our state and the well being of the people who live here. We are for the life, longevity and well being of the Colorado people. Please do not make Colorado a child-murder destination. We vote "No".</p>
<p>Stephanie Campbell Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote "No" on the Reproductive Health Equity Act. We believe, and science proves, that a human life starts at conception. We do not support any kind of murder or torture, whether the human is born or unborn. Though you may not believe in him, the truth is, this is an agenda straight from the devil who hates you and all people and would like to see us all dead and tortured. If your mother agreed with this bill, you wouldn't be here right now. Any short term benefit you get from agreeing with this act will ultimately turn into a nightmare for you. Agreeing with this act will also bring a curse and judgement against you, your family, our state and the well being of the people who live here. We are for the life, longevity and well being of the Colorado people. Please do not make Colorado a child-murder destination. We vote "No".</p>
<p>Rebecca Young Against Self</p>	<p>I wish to be a voice for the unborn babies. I urge a no vote for sanctity of life. A beating heart is a life that should NOT be stopped by a medical procedure for no cause. All lives matter!</p>
<p>Coleen Marin Against Self</p>	<p>I am a Catholic Christian opposed to the taking of an innocent life by abortion. Over 63 Million lives have been lost to abortion. 63 Million innocent children who may have been the person to find a cure for cancer, who may have been the next Mozart or Beethoven, who may have been the President or a spectacular artist. These innocent children never had an opportunity to be present in the world and make contributions to society. Abortion kills an innocent child.</p>

	<p>And it is a child. Science supports this. Is the embryo alive? Yes, it is growing. Could the embryo be anything but a human? No of course not. All humans have dignity of life and a right to life under our constitution. Is a baby aborted the day before it is born not a baby? Does it still being in its mother's womb rather than outside the womb make it not a baby? No, a baby is a baby. How can it be okay to do surgery on a 22-week-old viable baby in the womb to improve or save his life but abort that baby in the womb at the same age?</p> <p>Reproductive Health Care should mean allowing a potential mother to view her baby on an ultrasound. Planned Parenthood avoids that at all costs. In my opinion, the Colorado Legislature should put as much money and effort into supporting pregnant women as it does in supporting Reproductive Health Care. Our state would be much the better for it.</p> <p>I oppose House Bill 22-1279 and any other bill that supports abortion. I urge you to vote NO on this bill.</p> <p>Sincerely, Coleen Marin</p>
Christa Golding Against Self	<p>In haste and desperation, the "legislation" proposed in HB22-1279 tramples the peoples' First Amendment right of free speech by attempting to make it illegal to demonstrate against abortion in the state of Colorado. Voting for HB22-1279 would be an indication of self-interest and extreme partisanship, not representation of the people of this state.</p>
walter koschik Against Self	<p>As a resident of the state of Colorado, I oppose the submitted bill HB22-1279 in light of its continual false dismissal that a unique and independent human being, created at conception, does not have the same right to the protection of their life by the state, as children, teenagers and adults do, just because they live outside the womb. Taking the life of another human being is criminal and morally wrong at any point of their existence, no matter what the mother ("pregnant individual") or father feel is convenient for them. This is a one sided bill that tries to eliminate fair opportunity for those with differing views.</p>
Lolita Valento Against Self	<p>It is completely improper to force this bill upon constituents without allowing it to go to a proper vote. Millions of Coloradans stand for life in the womb. This measure is brutal and extreme and totally out of line with bonafide voter sentiment on the issue.</p> <p>A close majority of Coloradans believe life in the womb should be protected at 22 weeks, the point of viability outside the womb, at the very least. This was proven during Proposition 115.</p> <p>To ram this measure down the throats of Coloradans who have no opportunity to vote upon its consequences is entirely unfair and outside the realm and spirit of what politicians are put in place by voters to</p>

	<p>accomplish. It is contrary to the true will of the People of Colorado, and should never in any way be allowed to pass or stand.</p>
<p>Gwendolyn Olin Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you for hearing my testimony.</p> <p>I ask the Representatives to vote NO on HB22-1279, Reproductive Health Equity Act. This bill goes far beyond what Coloradans are willing to support.</p> <p>This bill will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ban the state of Colorado from providing any rights to preborn children</li> <li>• Bans parental notification or age restrictions on abortion</li> <li>• Invalidates all existing and future local abortion restrictions</li> <li>• Bans common-sense health restrictions on abortion, like requiring women to consult with a doctor before taking abortion pills</li> <li>• Bans options to prevent abortions based on sex, race, or disability</li> </ul> <p>This bill happily seeks to make Colorado a travel destination for the killing of preborn children with no restrictions whatsoever. Young women will be traveling to the state to get an abortion without their parents' knowledge. Localities will be unable to keep abortion facilities out of their communities. Also, the state will be specifically writing into law that the preborn child has no rights in this state.</p> <p>I support the sanctity of life and I pray you examine your heart and choose to vote NO on this extreme bill. Thank you.</p>
<p>Carissa Omanoff Against Self</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>As a Colorado native and resident I strongly believe this abortion bill should NOT be passed. It saddens me to see that an abortion could be done for any reason. I have two young children, 3 years old and 4 months old, and through the experience of their pregnancies and one miscarriage, I can strongly attest that life begins at conception and EVERY human being needs their right to live. I pray that the representatives who are voting will agree with me. These women who are considering abortions have many other options that would give their children life and not death. Thank you,</p> <p>Carissa</p>
<p>Renee Goldberg For Self</p>	<p>I am writing to request that Colorado protects the right to access safe, legal abortion care by passing the Reproductive Health Equity Act. Every person should have the fundamental right to choose/refuse contraception, an abortion, and a pregnancy. Because of Planned Parenthood and access to affordable healthcare through them, I never had to face the decision to keep a pregnancy or have an abortion. They gave me access to affordable care and contraception. If we don't pass this act, Coloradans may face the same vigilante, bounty hunter style abortion bans as Texas, and Colorado voters have proven time and again that they want access to abortion if needed. We also know that abortion bans disproportionately effect communities of color, low-</p>

	<p>income people, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, and other marginalized people. We cannot rely on federal courts to protect our rights in Colorado. Please pass RHEA. It is time we stand up for women's right to control their bodies. Ensure that abortions are legal and accessible to Coloradans. - Thank you, Renee</p>
<p>Margaret Froehlke Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>I am registered nurse and mother of 4 adult children. Brennan is our 3rd child and has Down syndrome and autism. I am contacting you today to urge you to VOTE NO on HB22-1279.</p> <p>This bill clearly violates the right to life for unborn children by giving those in positions of power the ability to make judgements to condemn and kill defenseless, voiceless human beings in the womb, even after they are viable to survive outside of the womb.</p> <p>Each infant, including you and I, began our life in the womb and were spared this unjust, despicable treatment and were born without this looming threat of evil, discrimination and death.</p> <p>This legislation clearly sets out to kill innocent American children based on a list of self-centered, selfish, pre-selected "conditions" that they have determined are "less than worthy" of their definitions of what is a human life. This act grants permission to continue these vial practices well after the unborn child own ability to survive outside of the womb and survive without the aid of their mother's body.</p> <p>Do you not recall, our own country's past evil history of legalized slavery which allowed the American government comprised of white men in positions of power to commit atrocities to an entire race of Black Americans? And, lest we forget, the millions of lives that were deemed "less than human" and killed through a state system initiated by a World Leader, Adolf Hitler?</p> <p>The audacity of such a law should outrage all of us! It clearly shows how selfish and self-centered the world has become. Enacting this legislation brings all of us one step closer to a state-run system that has the power to kill any of us, at any point in our lives, should "the powerful" determine, we are not worthy and measuring up, no matter our age, and stripping us of all human dignity.</p> <p>As a mother, I can't begin to tell you of the countless joys and gifts I have received because of our son Brennan's life. He alone is without judgement of others, is always kind, considerate, thoughtful, honest, and loving. None of the rest of my family members, including me, can I say that about. His life has touched and changed more lives than I could ever do. I am so humbled and honored to call him my son and thank God every day that he is a part of our family. I pity those of you who have not had the experience of loving a person with disabilities in your lives. That is clearly a loss to your own humanity.</p> <p>Please DO NOT support HB22-1279.</p>

<p>Janice Campbell Against Self</p>	<p>The beauty of Colorado greatly diminishes if we do not recognize the beauty of life - from conception to end of life as ordered by our Creator. Therefore, abortion on demand (HB22-1279) should never be considered as an alternative to viable healthcare. Life-giving alternatives are available - for men, women, and babies, and Colorado would do well to encourage and support them.</p>
<p>kevin kelly Against Self</p>	<p>I believe in Life,Liberty,and the pursuit of happiness.Without life,one can't have the other two.Out in boulder colorado warren-hern is dismembering human-beings in their mothers womb,I find this most inhumane.I support {Personhood } and I gathered signatures on petitions to get it onto the ballot.Now with artificial contraception,many forms have a secondary action,that prevents nidation.Conception occurs outside of the womb,and the tiny human being travels down to the womb and tries to latch-on and chemicals or mechanical-action of the i.u.d. prevent nidation and the baby is { sloughed-off } and perishes.My position on HB22-1279 is that it fails miserably. Good-day: kevin</p>
<p>Terese Watson Against Self</p>	<p>For some women an unexpected pregnancy can be scary and worrisome, and many of those women resort to abortion in that highly emotional, frightening time. That is a finality that cannot be undone. Why is HB22-1279 being pushed through so quickly? Why not consider alternatives to helping women during this time, including counseling and the encouragement of adoption?</p> <p>Section 1 (b) of bill HB1279 can be accomplished through adoption. No one’s goals are inhibited by carrying out a pregnancy and adopting out a baby, and the pregnant woman’s responsibility ends at the birth of the baby.</p> <p>[Section 1 (b): Access to family planning allows all Coloradans to pursue personal, educational, financial, and familial goals and helps decrease the health and socioeconomic disparities disproportionately faced by people of color and people with low incomes.] Need I remind this committee that Planned Parenthood was founded upon Margaret Sanger’s belief in eugenics? Her targets were those of low IQ and people of color.</p> <p>In addition, there is no immediate governmental safety concern affecting pregnant women so section 3 of this bill is overreactive.</p> <p>[Section 3 Safety clause The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety.]</p> <p>The character of a society is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable; care for newborns, including those of botched abortions, demonstrates Coloradans character. Do we want to be known for ignoring the vulnerable, or helping them?</p> <p>I implore you to vote against this extreme bill.</p>
<p>Cynthia Schwindt Against Self</p>	<p>It is my understanding you have introduced legislation to create a path through which there are no options for any local government to deny or limit legal abortions. At this time, Colorado law allows for safe, legal</p>

	<p>abortions. It seems this bill is written to allow for 'equity' in abortion, which implies the current abortion law in Colorado suffers from defects in fairness and justice. I find this to be false. Creating a bill that does not allow local governments to make decisions regarding abortion is unfair; the state of Colorado should not entertain this level of government overreach by passing this bill.</p>
<p>Shirley Penaflor Against Self</p>	<p>I am strongly against HB-1279 and urge the Committee Members and my Representative to vote against this bill. HB-1279 goes drastically beyond ensuring the fundamental right to make reproductive health care decision free from gov't interference. it interferes with the fundamental right of the unborn right to life. HB-1279 iwould be the most radical abortion law in the United States and is far reaching beyond the fundamental right to health care decisions. The unborn should be protected under the law, not sentenced to death by it. This bill is a fear-based reaction to the possible overturning of Roe v. Wade at the extreme cost of innocent human life. Again, i urge you to stand for life and vote against HB-1279.</p>
<p>Eric Surface Against Self</p>	<p>Greetings, I am reaching out as a Pastor, and concerned citizen that this bill HB22-1279 not be passed and should not be brought forth again. It is morally, civically, and spiritually reprehensible. Anyone with any common sense should be able to see the far reaching negative side effects, not only that of killing innocent children, of this terrible legislation. I pray that you will do the right thing and stop this bill.</p> <p>Blessings, Eric Surface</p>
<p>Bryan Sanford Against Self</p>	<p>I stand in strong opposition to HB22-1279. This bill would allow the killing of our most vulnerable members of society- unborn children. Gone are the days when someone could support abortion because the baby was 'just a clump of cells'. Medical technology clearly demonstrates that a baby in utero is fully human. From the time of conception the baby is a unique individual with its own unique genetic code, a code that is neither his mothers nor his fathers. It contains all of the genetic information required to determine the child's individual characteristics- no new genetic information is needed. The child is in the mothers womb, her body, but is a completely separate individual with it's own body. Standing up for the rights of individuals should include children in the womb. We work hard to prevent violence in our society- no one should be subject to violence to their body because of the desires or choices of people around them. Abortion should be no different. In every abortion- regardless of the reason- an innocent human being is brutally violated and dehumanized. We have a responsibility as citizens to ensure safety and protection for every member of society, especially those that cannot defend themselves. Every life has value. We need to remember that a childs value is not based on whether that child will be unwanted. As a father of 9- 5 adopted- I can attest that there are families out there that are ready to provide homes for children that are</p>

	<p>unwanted. Or inconvenient. Or a burden. Or disabled. Or the wrong sex or skin color- how can any of these 'reasons' justify the killing of an innocent child? Abortion is NOT 'healthcare'- it is a choice to end the life of an innocent baby. By passing this bill, you are advocating and agreeing to the right to kill children at any time of the pregnancy for any reason. By taking a stand against this bill- and any bill that gives others the right to kill innocents- you are standing for the rights of everyone, the rights spoken of in the Declaration of Independence- the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Please take a stand for the right to life!</p>
<p>Abby Bankson Against Self</p>	<p>As a citizen in the state of Colorado, I gravely ask you to vote no on bill HB22-1279. This abortion bill is the most radical in our country and will lead to the deaths of countless babies and zero accountability. I'm convinced God is weeping over our state even considering this bill and I'm praying a compassionate and wise decision is made this week. We as individuals and as a community will be help accountable for our actions and I plead with you to consider the sancity of human life from when our heart first beats. I myself was almost aborted and can't imagine my life and the privilege of having my own family being taken from me. I beg you to consider what you ate voting for carefully before casting a ballot. Thank you.</p>
<p>William-Terri Nelligan Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to testify in writing on HB 22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act. This legislation, if enacted, will improve the reproductive health of no one. It will however remove all remaining restrictions on abortion in the Colorado, leading to the murder of the unborn without restriction. Our country's founding documents recognize that we are all endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. The order of these inalienable rights is intentional - without Life, there can be no Liberty, and without Liberty there can be no pursuit of happiness. Today we have reversed the priority of these rights - the Pursuit of Happiness is now paramount and anything or anyone, in this case even the unborn, who stands in the way, is denied their right to Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness. The truth is we are sacrificing our future; our children, on the altar of convenience.</p> <p>This all comes down to Choice. To borrow from scripture; we have been given a choice between Life and Death; between a blessing and a curse. This choice is not just for us; but for our children and our children's children. We pray that you Choose Life and vote against Death and HB22-1279.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>William and Terri Nelligan Dolores, Colorado</p>
<p>Denise Davis Against</p>	<p>I am against this bill because abortion hurts women in so many ways. While many things need to be changed, this bill is not the way to do it.</p>

<p>Self</p>	<p>Please know that I do believe a fetus is a human and has rights. I am strongly against this bill. Denise Davis</p>
<p>Patricia Coombs Against Andrew Wommack Ministries</p>	<p>I had an abortion while at UNC 1973. I chose abortion without a clue of morality. I was so lost. When I made that decision I experienced the nightmare of killing life. At the clinic there was an attendant that kept slapping me for hyper ventilating. In the recovery room there was three young 20's girls all sobbing over what had just happened. I subsequently turned to alcohol and drugs and began to try and kill myself by taking 17 hits of speed a day. I wanted to die. Then a friend came into my life and led me make a decision for Christ and Jesus forgave me for my sin. I now live feely knowing I can help other women receive forgiveness. As a single mom I got pregnant by making an irresponsible choice. I put that baby up for adoption and gave a couple a child who had tried for 12 years to have their child. So I can say life matters. Please donot it is for women's health. It nearly killed my to have an abortion . Giving life for adoption was tough but I blessed a baby boy giving him life and wonderful parents</p>
<p>Lauren Fleeman Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Lauren Fleeman and I am a Colorado resident. I am also a wife and a mother and I am a Christian that believes that God created all human beings and that life begins at conception. We are created in the image of God and even science has confirmed that the baby is fully human at conception. Abortion is therefore a crime and is committing murder on an unborn human being. We don't kill human beings based on their size or for convenience of the mother. This is a sin issue and sin will corrupt us but their is forgiveness in Christ alone. Since the baby in the womb is indeed human, he/she has bodily autonomy and that cannot be refuted. This bill promotes "postnatal" abortions which means after childbirth. This child would be left to die or be euthanized after a request is made. This sick and demented for someone to view a newborn as disposable. HB 1279 violates the fundamental human right to life for millions of pre-born children. And it is out-of-touch with the desires of millions of Colorado voters. I call on you to do what is morally right and protect the human rights of pre-born children. Thank you.</p>
<p>Rosanne Loukonen Against Self</p>	<p>I do not believe this bill represents the opinions of most Coloradans. It's an evil bill that devalues human life and I hope and pray that this bill never sees the light of day outside of this committee. Please stop it here!</p>
<p>Gary Eastty Against Self</p>	<p>As a resident of Colorado I would like to urge the whole Colorado General Assembly to vote NO on HB22-1279. This is essentially an abortion on demand law that will cause the deaths of many unborn babies. We hear alot about what matters in our country and state today, and protecting unborn babies really matters! Of all the people who are marginalized and need protection, the unborn is number one in my thinking.  With all respect,</p>

	Gary R Eastty
Alma Oliva Against Self	<p>Testimony against HB22-1279</p> <p>I am a mother of three, two of which were born alive and well. In my first pregnancy, I had many questions and fears. Nonetheless, seeing my baby grow was a beautiful experience. Everything looked normal. I could see his heart, even though he was just a little bean. At week 10, I felt a pull, and then I felt my baby's body hit the wall of my uterus. Something was wrong. I went to the doctor only to find out that my baby's heartbeat was no longer there.</p> <p>NO ONE can tell me that a fetus is not a human being! NO ONE can tell me that he is not deserving of respect and human rights!</p> <p>I was not able to conceive for a while. I got pregnant a second time. I began having contractions, and the doctor sent me on bed rest when I was six months pregnant. I could feel my baby move inside of me. I would rub my belly and my baby would move towards the area which I rubbed. I started playing with him. I would poke my belly and he would kick the area in which I poked him. Babies are alive and they are separate human beings from the mother. They like to feel loved and they show their ability to reason and follow a simple game. They are not the same being as their mothers!</p> <p>Mercy has nothing to do with killing and trampling with human being rights saying that babies don't exist, or that they are not people! Let babies live! There are so many loving homes that would be willing to adopt them. Let them live!</p> <p>Do not let those who are pushing for this genocide to take place! A baby is alive! Those who tell otherwise are liars and thieves. They will never say to a woman how much pain it would be for them to wonder what would have been of that baby! No one will tell them how much pain it is to have a little one removed from inside you! They won't tell women they will dismember or burn that little one inside of them until he is dead! They also don't tell them how hard it will be for afterward to conceive.</p> <p>I urge you: Do not let others decide over your children!</p> <p>Woman: These cold-hearted business people are not interested in you or your well-being. They are only interested in their own greed, and they are trying to pass these acts to silence those of us that still use reason to defend the youngest of our kind.</p> <p>I sternly oppose the Reproductive Health Equity Act!</p> <p>In God we trust!</p>

	Alma Oliva
LaDonna Robertson Against Self	<p>Dear Sirs and Madams,</p> <p>I am requesting a vote of "NO" for HB22-1279. This bill is extreme in nature. Minors have no business having abortions without parental oversight. Having an abortion, not only is detrimental to the baby his/herself, but can have life altering affects on a young mother having the abortion.</p> <p>I am speaking from experience, having an abortion as a just-turned 16 year old that could never have children because of that abortion, I feel that you all are not looking at the mental and possible physical problems that occur with having an abortion. Parents need to be able to guide their children to what is best and to be there for them in all life altering times. To take that away from parents is child abuse on your part.</p> <p>PLEASE VOTE NO.</p> <p>Thank you, LaDonna Robertson</p>
Jacey Oehling Against Self	<p>DATE: March 9th, 2022 Time: 1:30 PM</p> <p>House Bill 22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act</p> <p>Colorado General Assembly 200 E Colfax Avenue Denver, CO 80203</p> <p>Dear Madam Chair Susan Lontine, Vice Chair David Ortiz and all members of the House Health and Insurance Committee:</p> <p>My name is Jacey Oehling; I am testifying on behalf of myself. I am testifying against House Bill 22-1279 which would grant fundamental rights to individuals pertaining to the use of contraception as well as granting pregnant individuals the fundamental right to abortion. Further, I am against House Bill 22-1279 which would prohibit a fertilized egg(s), embryo(s), and fetus(es) independent and derivative rights.</p> <p>I oppose this bill as it would give pregnant women the right to murder their unborn baby through abortion. A parent's duty is to protect their child and raise them no matter the cause of conception.</p> <p>An unborn baby is a human being. They must be treated as such.</p> <p>There are resources to help pregnant women and their unborn baby in the situation of unwanted pregnancy. Murdering an unborn baby is not the answer.</p>

	<p>When a pregnant woman murders an unborn baby, she eliminates a future and a glimmer of hope. A future husband, wife, best friend, member of the military, or perhaps even president.</p> <p>Instead of allowing the murder of unborn babies in the State of Colorado, I suggest you promote the hope that an unborn baby can bring into this world.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p> <p>Jacey Oehling</p>
<p>Shawn Adams Against Self</p>	<p>The blatant disregard for life is beyond reprehensible. Isn't it amazing that all that are for abortion have already been born. How would you all feel if your mother had chosen to abort you. Oh yeah, you wouldn't because you would be dead! These babies didn't have a choice in being conceived and certainly don't have a voice in being killed, and yes they are being killed. Every child is a gift from God, you are killing his children. I do know how you could possibly sleep at night if you pass this bill, knowing or not knowing how many lives you are ending. What if it was your Grandchild that was murdered, would you still think it's ok? Just think all the memories that you will never have because you were a part of passing this bill. May God have mercy on your soul for being a part of this bill pass!!!</p>
<p>Mistysque Menn Against Self</p>	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>Oh, how I wish I could be there in person. Face to face requires a higher level of personal responsibility when faced with people who speak truth even when it's unpopular.</p> <p>A baby in a mother's womb has DNA separate from the mother. This indicates a separate life. I want to remind you that you are not God, &amp; you are not to play God, by deciding when life is or is not viable.</p> <p>This bill is not health-care, but murder. To "pro choicers": Until you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the baby does not experience excruciating pain, fear, &amp; misery through the very inhumane procedures of limb dismemberment, skull crushing, ingesting salt, &amp; the like, you should really be more reverent of human life &amp; the fact that your own mother chose life for YOU. What a hypocritical stance, to stand up for aborting babies when you yourselves were spared such evil.</p> <p>You may not believe in God, but I know beyond a doubt He exists &amp; I hear from Him daily. If you vote for this, I have to warn you you are standing in the direct path of God's wrath. I will pray for His mercy over you &amp; your family, &amp; for you to repent, but YOUR vote chooses YOUR standing with God. I promise He is real &amp; you WILL stand before His judgment seat someday. Make sure you can say you did NOT vote for the extermination of babies because this will not go well for you.</p> <p>I am praying dreams from God over you tonight to cause you conviction &amp; unrest if you plan to support this bill. I pray &amp; plead you heed the warning, so your home will be spared.</p> <p>Do the right thing.</p>

<p>Alicia Scott Against Self</p>	<p>Mistytique Menn</p> <p>Thank you for hearing my testimony. I am strongly opposed to this bill, HB22-1279. Abortion is not a right that should be given to citizens. I'm not sure why murder is only considered after the baby is born. Many babies can live even after an abortion. What makes them different? I believe life starts at the moment of conception. All babies are a gift from God. I have a daughter with Down syndrome and our communities have allowed the abortion rate for children diagnosed in-utero with Down syndrome to sky rocket to 90% of all prenatal diagnosis's of Down syndrome to be aborted. This is a tragedy. My daughter is a gift. She has a beautiful life and happens to have Down syndrome. Children are a blessing and not just an inconvenience to our financial, social, and family plans. We need to change our plans to let in the life that God has given us. Many abortions are happening today because of inconvenience to one's plans and personal desires to have a certain and specific baby. The Lord has given babies and that is His perfection.</p> <p>It is sad but with the permission to end life through our legal system, people believe it is not a big deal to have an abortion. Some women have many many abortions as a form of birth control. This is a tragedy! Please do not pass this bill. Let's love every child and let them have a life. There are so many people who want to adopt. We need to spend more time and energy promoting adoption and prenatal care than on this bill!</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony.</p> <p>Alicia</p>
<p>Grant Lucyk Against Self</p>	<p>I believe a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus is a human being and should have independent and derivative rights under the laws of the state.</p>
<p>Marty Dawley For Self</p>	<p>Today, I ask that all our legislators learn or remember our American past, when abortion was illegal. I remember this time well. When a woman had an unwanted pregnancy, she faced choosing backroom, illegal abortionists or her own coat hanger or other attempts to end the pregnancy. These abortions killed, hospitalized and sterilized many women. Yet many women, even knowing these risks, sought out abortions.</p> <p>These women were not criminals but they were criminalized. They were women faced with a huge life decision, who knew that pregnancy would be catastrophic for them at that time in their lives. They made this dangerous choice because that was the best option for them. They were not prepared to be pregnant or to raise a child.</p> <p>There is no similar choice in men's lives. A man can impregnate a woman and walk away from the pregnancy. The pregnancy does not limit his ability to complete his schooling, hold on to his job, raise his other children, or face his friends and family. It does not endanger his physical or mental health. A fair legislator must consider abortion from the perspective of a woman whose life is being interrupted and changed without plan or desire by an unexpected pregnancy. This may not be a situation that you will ever be in, but it is a reality in women's lives,</p>

	<p>young and old, rich and poor. While pregnancy is often a great blessing, it can be a catastrophic interruption of a woman's life.</p> <p>When our legislators block the right to abortion, they are choosing to make a choice for all women, a choice the legislators may not understand the implications of. No one denies that abortion is not the ideal choice. Education and availability of birth control are solutions all supporters of abortion rights would prefer, but the reality is that some women are still in need of abortions and will seek them out.</p> <p>Statistics show that abortion rates prior to Roe v Wade were (percentage wise) approximately the same as today! That's stunning, isn't it? Like Prohibition, when we attempt make our personal moral beliefs into law, the results are often not what we intend. Like Prohibition, criminalizing abortion simply pushes it underground. It does not achieve the goal of eliminating it.</p> <p>This country and this state are founded on the idea of freedom of belief. Those who believe abortion is wrong should not have abortions. Those who believe that abortion is an important part of women's reproductive rights should have those rights guaranteed. We should not return to back alley abortions and the inequality of safe abortions only for those with the money to buy them. Abortions were frequent during this country's period of abortion prohibition. Forcing abortion underground will endanger and kill many women, not prevent abortion.</p> <p>I hope each of our legislators will face these truths and support the rights of all Colorado women by allowing them to make their own reproductive choices.</p>
<p>Drew Hymer Against Self</p>	<p>I am under no obligation, in normal situations, to care for my neighbors' children. But if, through my own actions, I cause one of my neighbors' children to be in need, I incur an obligation to care for that person. If I refuse to give that care and the child dies because of my neglect, I'm guilty of homicide. My obligation trumps virtually any other right I could claim.</p> <p>On the other hand, my neighbors are obligated to care for their children. What would we think of a parent who refuses to feed or otherwise care for her baby and the baby dies in her crib because of the neglect? What right could a parent claim to minimize her responsibility?</p> <p>When does parental obligation end? We set an arbitrary line at 18 years old, based on the principle that parental obligation ends when the child can care for her own needs. This fact demonstrates the basis of parental obligation. Parental obligation exists because children cannot take care of themselves. But it's more than that. As illustrated above, I don't share my neighbors' obligation to care for their children. This is because my neighbors, unlike me, caused those children to be in need.</p>

	<p>So when does parental obligation begin? Because parental obligation is based on the child’s inability to care for her own needs and parents’ causation, all you have to do is ask, when did this happen? The child’s needs begin when the parents cause the child to come into existence, about nine months before birth. Parental obligation begins then too.</p>
<p>James Schuler Against Self</p>	<p>President Andrew Jackson murdered thousands of Cherokee on the Trail of Tears. Every president from Van Buren to Buchanan either supported slavery or ignored it. Hundreds of Southern Governors enforced Jim Crow laws for a hundred years. President Truman atomized TWO Japanese cities, while FDR atomized ZERO German cities. JFK set the stage for Vietnam, and LBJ executed it. 50,000 young Americans wasted, plus 3 million more South Vietnamese. Roe v. Wade has been upheld by Presidents Carter, Clinton, Obama and Biden.</p> <p>ENOUGH of defining who IS a person; who ISN’T a person; and who is 3/5ths of a person. When will democrats be done? When will you have your fill?</p> <p>If a woman needs help, HELP HER, without killing the next generation of women growing inside.</p>
<p>David Hudson Against Self</p>	<p>Each Representative took an oath to support and defend the Constitution and the God-given rights that it guarantees. The preeminent human right is the right to life, for if that right is forfeited, all others are meaningless. The clear and undeniable purpose of HB22-1279 is death, not life, and certainly not health. Vote NO on HB22-1279. HB22-1279 explicitly denies the right to life to an entire class of Colorado citizens – those who exist and thrive in their mother’s womb. These are not just “potential persons”, or "clumps of cells", or other labels which abortion advocates use. Each unborn child is a living human being. This bill would legalize the murder of defenseless children, the most ghastly act imaginable.</p> <p>A yes vote would put partial birth abortion into Colorado law, along with any other form of abortion done until the moment of birth. Science has clearly proven that human life begins at conception. Even if you don’t believe science, you cannot deny that late-term abortions kill human beings, not “non-viable tissue masses”.</p> <p>A yes vote would potentially legalize infanticide, as this poorly worded bill includes "POSTNATAL, AND DELIVERY CARE" in its definition of "REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE". Forbidding any regulation of “postnatal” care means an infant born before or during an abortion or during a botched procedure can be left to die or euthanized after a physician’s consultation. This is abominable and cannot become law in Colorado.</p>

	<p>A yes vote would protect any abortion based on the gender, ethnicity, or race of the baby. You would be party to a crime no different from those of Nazi war criminals who murdered millions based simply on race and ethnicity.</p> <p>A yes vote would remove Colorado's parental notification law, where parents are told if their minor daughters schedule an abortion. You would thus enable children to murder children.</p> <p>A yes vote says that a child who could survive outside the womb has "no rights under the laws" of Colorado. You would deny the most basic human right to millions of Colorado citizens.</p> <p>If you vote yes on this bill, you will be directly complicit in the murders of untold numbers of children, and you will violate your oath of office. May God have mercy on your souls.</p> <p>If you vote NO on this bill, thank you, and please do all you can to persuade your colleagues to stand for life rather than death. The soul of our great state hangs in the balance.</p>
<p>Lemma Peterson Against Self</p>	<p>HB22-1279 has consequences. Not here on earth. You have the power to do whatever you choose and, sadly, you can very simply pass this Bill onward. Our Father in Heaven knows what is right and what is wrong. This Bill is wrong. I hope you make the choice that will honor our Father in Heaven. We protect animals and plants more than a baby being formed in the womb of a mother. Babies are born and thrive at earlier and earlier stages of growth from a mother's womb. To be comfortable with ending the life of a baby at any stage of growth is something that is without morals and ethics. It is wrong for humanity, but it seems only what is wrong is becoming best. Those gaining power keep pushing wrong forward. Please be bold and courageous and vote NO on HB22-1279.</p>
<p>Celeste Solak Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote against this atrocity.</p> <p>*It is wrong to legalize the killing of a human being in the womb at any stage of pregnancy, even until the moment of birth, and make it into a state law.</p> <p>*It is wrong to declare that a woman has a fundamental right to end the life of her baby.</p> <p>*It is wrong to achieve "racial equity" by targeting "people of color," people with low incomes" as well as individuals in rural areas.</p> <p>*RHEA absolutely disregards the rights of human beings in the womb. Even animals have more protection than our defenseless babies and vulnerable women.</p> <p>This is against humanity. Please vote in opposition.</p>
<p>Madelyn Gaarde Against Self</p>	<p>It is outrageous that Colorado would consider a law that would condone the killing of innocent unborn babies and give no option for restricting this slaughter. Our legislature must NEVER pass such a law! No state in our union has shown this much disregard for human life. This proposed law must never be enacted in Colorado or anywhere else.</p>

<p>Philip Sauser Against Self</p>	<p>Please VOTE NO on HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA). If enacted, the RHEA will codify the following into state law:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abortion up-to-the moment of birth for any reason, which would permit: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) On-demand abortion for the full 40 weeks of a pregnancy.</li> <li>b) Abortion based on discrimination of sex, race, or children with disabilities such as down syndrome.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Remove the requirement that parents be notified if their minor receives an abortion.</li> <li>3. Enshrine in law that "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws" of Colorado.</li> <li>4. Prohibit any regulation of abortion based on concerns regarding the health of the woman or baby.</li> </ol> <p>This HB 1279 violates the fundamental human right to life for millions of pre-born children. And it is out-of-touch with the desires of millions of Colorado voters.</p> <p>Please VOTE NO on HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA).</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Philip Sauser</p>
<p>Stephani McCaslin Against Self</p>	<p>This bill is too extreme for Colorado! Preborn babies deserve to be protected under the law – not sentenced to death by it. We the people urge you to vote NO on this bill</p>
<p>Denise Sauser Against Self</p>	<p>Please VOTE NO on HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA), which will be heard in the House Health and Insurance committee on March 9, 2022.</p> <p>If enacted, the RHEA will codify the following into state law:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abortion up-to-the moment of birth for any reason, which would permit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-demand abortion for the full 40 weeks of a pregnancy.</li> <li>• Abortion based on discrimination of sex, race, or children with disabilities such as down syndrome.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Remove the requirement that parents be notified if their minor receives an abortion.</li> <li>3. Enshrine in law that "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws" of Colorado.</li> <li>4. Prohibit any regulation of abortion based on concerns regarding the health of the woman or baby.</li> </ol> <p>In 2020, nearly 150,000 Coloradans put Proposition 115 on the ballot, which, if it had passed, would have prohibited abortion after 22-weeks' gestation when the child is viable. At the same time, Colorado Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains and other abortion facilities doubled down on making Colorado an "abortion destination."</p> <p>Sponsors Rep. Froelich, Sen. Gonzales, and House Majority Leader Esgar designed HB 1279 to anticipate the upcoming Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health U.S. Supreme Court decision, which could overturn Roe v. Wade, by enacting protections for abortion under Colorado law</p>

	<p>that expand the current legal status of abortion by designating it as a "fundamental right."                  This HB 1279 violates the fundamental human right to life for millions of pre-born children. And it is out-of-touch with the desires of millions of Colorado voters.                  Please VOTE NO on HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA).                  Thank you.                  Denise Sauser</p>
<p>Mark Korb                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>Representatives:</p> <p>Each of us was born of another, our mother. Our existence is dependent on the mutual love of our mother and father. These two individual human beings joined in such a way as to create new life, i.e., to conceive a separate being, a child.</p> <p>Conception of and development of the child as a distinct human being is established by biology and embriology. You can't change this scientific fact by statutory denial of the truth. A fertilized egg matures into an embryo and a fetus--but all are the same individual being, a child yet unborn. This being deserves protection of its idependent rights under the laws of our country.</p> <p>Take courage and look to the lead of millions of your fellow citizens and legislatures such as Wyoming in protecting unborn life in the womb.</p> <p>Vote No on HB 22-1279</p> <p>Mark and Patricia Korb</p>
<p>Sarah Alber                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>I am writing to plead that you OPPOSE and end HB22-1279. Never before has such a barbaric bill been introduced in this state. It attempts to disguise the horrible practice of killing human beings under the guise of "reproductive health care." Aside from the inherent wrongness of the killing of innocent babies, HB22-1279 is racist, sexist, and discriminatory.</p> <p>As a registered nurse and nurse practitioner who focused on the care of new mothers and infants, I am horrified by all this bill stands for. As a life-long Coloradoan with four living children, I cannot imagine a grosser and more horrific law for Colorado to adopt. As a mother who has lost one child to miscarriage and another to an unexpected and unexplainable death after a full-term delivery and eight hours of life, I cannot beg you strongly enough to withdraw any support you have for this bill and strongly oppose it. The process of losing a child, watching as life leaves them, hearing their final breath is one that will haunt a parent forever. No mother has the right to willingly take the life of her child. That child's body and life are independent of the mother's.</p>

	<p>Please, for the sake of all that is good and right, oppose HB22-1279 and save the lives of future Coloradoans.</p> <p>Sarah Alber Denver, Colorado</p>
<p>Nesta Fleming Against Self</p>	<p>My name is Nesta Fleming, and I have lived in Colorado for twenty-three years. I have never given testimony at a hearing, and quite honestly probably never would have, had it not been for the evil put forth in this bill. I am the mother of five children. I have had three miscarriages, also known as spontaneous abortions, and have had two dilation and curettage procedures. This is the same procedure used for women who would like to terminate their pregnancies before the baby is twenty weeks. I would like to address the emotional and psychological trauma that takes place when a this procedure is done. Due to the political nature of abortion, the negative affects of abortive treatments are downplayed and often times, not even addressed. For myself, I was given a mild pain killer and and told to take it for cramping. This was my only instruction and help after having my dead child vacuumed from my body. There was no offer for emotional or mental support. I was not given permission to grieve or to feel loss, as this was seen as any random procedure, like a mole removal. I cannot imagine what the emotional state of a woman choosing to terminate her pregnancy would be like. Regardless of how she feels towards the fetus, her choice to alter her life forever should be met with help and support and not for it to be trivialized by those who wish to downplay her decision in order to promote abortion.</p> <p>As a mother, I would also like to address how if this bill is passed it will remove the restriction for parental notification. As the mother of three daughters 20, 16, and 14 the idea that my girls would have to navigate the emotions and responsibilities of a pregnancy as well as an abortion without the support and love of their family is reprehensible. No adolescent should be given the ability to process a pregnancy alone; Emotions, hormones, and fear would all need to be shared with others, who can help with the burdens that a pregnancy can bring. We do not allow teenagers to make many choices (drinking, which classes to take at school, driving, to name a few) without parental consent; a decision about terminating a pregnancy should be no different.</p> <p>I plead with each of you, please do not pass this bill.</p>
<p>JING WANG Against Self</p>	<p>I was born in China in 1990 under the one-child policy. I am the second child in my family.</p> <p>In order to keep my life and prevent me from being aborted by the authorities, my mom had to hide during her pregnancy.</p>

	<p>Fortunately I was not found, was being born. But this did not end. I remember growing up, the authorities would knock on the our door to check whether there were more than one child in my family. I was not able to say this is my sister or brother, because that would cause trouble for us.</p> <p>If my parents would have chosen to abort me for their convenience, there wouldn't be me. My brother wouldn't be born. Today I can be here writing and testifying simply because of my parents' choice. I don't dare to take it for granted.</p>
<p>Nesta Fleming Against Self</p>	<p>My name is Nesta Fleming, and I have lived in Colorado for twenty-three years. I have never given testimony at a hearing, and quite honestly probably never would have, had it not been for the evil put forth in this bill. I am the mother of five children. I have had three miscarriages, also known as spontaneous abortions, and have had two dilation and curettage procedures. This is the same procedure used for women who would like to terminate their pregnancies before the baby is twenty weeks. I would like to address the emotional and psychological trauma that takes place when a this procedure is done. Due to the political nature of abortion, the negative affects of abortive treatments are downplayed and often times, not even addressed. For myself, I was given a mild pain killer and and told to take it for cramping. This was my only instruction and help after having my dead child vacuumed from my body. There was no offer for emotional or mental support. I was not given permission to grieve or to feel loss, as this was seen as any random procedure, like a mole removal. I cannot imagine what the emotional state of a woman choosing to terminate her pregnancy would be like. Regardless of how she feels towards the fetus, her choice to alter her life forever should be met with help and support and not for it to be trivialized by those who wish to downplay her decision in order to promote abortion.</p> <p>As a mother, I would also like to address how if this bill is passed it will remove the restriction for parental notification. As the mother of three daughters 20, 16, and 14 the idea that my girls would have to navigate the emotions and responsibilities of a pregnancy as well as an abortion without the support and love of their family is reprehensible. No adolescent should be given the ability to process a pregnancy alone; Emotions, hormones, and fear would all need to be shared with others, who can help with the burdens that a pregnancy can bring. We do not allow teenagers to make many choices (drinking, which classes to take at school, driving, to name a few) without parental consent; a decision about terminating a pregnancy should be no different.</p> <p>I plead with each of you, please do not pass this bill.</p>
<p>Brent Anderson Amend</p>	<p>Amend to include abortion and contraception cannot be forced upon anyone and abortion cannot be performed after a heartbeat is detected.</p>

<p>Self</p>	<p>It would be tragic for Colorado to be known as the state with unrestricted access to barbaric taking innocent life away from those who cannot defend themselves.</p> <p>In the bill is the statement "individual's right". Without regard to Roe v. Wade, how can it now be construed that anyone has the right to take the life of another human being? Please note that there is a great foundation of evidence from medical testing now that was not available in 1973 to show that human life begins much earlier than previously thought. Whether that is the detection of heartbeat, the ability to feel pain or viability outside the womb is another debate. But my vote is for detection of a heartbeat.</p>
<p>Larry Gerber Against Self</p>	<p>I am strongly against this bill, as abortion is simply wrong, and against my faith in God. Not informing parents is simply wrong as well. And a child who can survive outside of the womb should have the same rights as any other person. PLEASE do NOT pass this bill!!!</p>
<p>Jeanine Gilmore Against Self</p>	<p>House Health and Insurance Committee regarding HB22-1279: Thank you for your attention to my testimony regarding HB22-1279. Please consider the following before voting on this bill.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any legislation that restricts the right of citizens to express ideas through speech is an infringement on citizens' rights as protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution – For any state bill to restrict an individual's right to discuss an abortion procedure is activist fanaticism. For the state to interfere in a discussion between a parent and an under-age child regarding an abortion procedure is an over-reach of the state's authority. A 15-year old is not old enough to have a permanent driver's license. A 16-year old girl is not old enough to vote. The Colorado State Assembly believes that a young woman has the emotional maturity – while in distress – to make a decision on an abortion without parental input?</li> <li>2. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution also protects the right to assembly and group protest. If those of us who believe that abortion is taking a life, we have a right to protest and to exercise our right to speak openly about those beliefs. For the state government to restrict that right is unconstitutional – for a reason. The definition of fascism includes the "suppression of opposition and criticism". If a state government can override the rights of Colorado citizens under the federal constitution, we are mere steps from tyranny. Think of the precedent you set for those you disagree with...</li> <li>3. For those of us who believe that all life is a sacred gift from God, our First Amendment rights also include the right to religious beliefs and practices. To use public funds for abortion is an infringement on religious beliefs and practices. We pay taxes or face punishment, but those funds can be used for what we believe is murder? There is scientific evidence to support the existence of life in the womb. Science is objective. Whether you agree with it or not is opinion, thus subjective. To force the views of some on all is tyranny.</li> </ol>

	<p>4. It is ignorant to assume that abortion does not have negative effects on women as well. To consider yourselves informed on the issue, please consider reading:  <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6207970/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6207970/</a></p> <p>The First Amendment was intended specifically for when people disagree. To use the law to circumvent the First Amendment is petty activism.</p>
<p>Kenneth Mills  Against  Morning daily web Prayer  meeting Group</p>	<p>From Kenneth Mills Arriba, Co 80804  Colorado House Health &amp; 3/7/2022  Insurance Committee  HB22-1279 ?</p> <p>Dear Committee members.</p> <p>Please do not Vote for HB22-1279. Please vote NO on this horrible bill HB22-1279.</p> <p>A law like this would make Colorado vile and reprehensible.</p> <p>Wickedness cannot long prevail in Government, without a collapse of that Government. The founding fathers knew this and published the same.</p> <p>As representatives of the people Please support the lives of the infants living in the womb, as well as newborns.</p> <p>All of history will judge what we do during this period. Did we protect the innocent pre-born, or did we allow for the slaughter of babies?</p> <p>Please do not allow the slaughter of innocent babies in the womb. Please Reject HB22-1279!</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Kenneth E Mills</p>
<p>Sarah Brown  Against  Self</p>	<p>Hello. Thank you for hearing us against this bill. I'll be focusing on the part of the bill saying preborn children should be denied rights, that they aren't truly people.</p> <p>My first pregnancy, my daughter was incredibly active. I felt flutters starting at 17 weeks, which led into full-fledged womb gymnastics. My</p>

	<p>coworkers would love to watch my belly bounce around, feel her limbs stretching to the max. I have video of this over-the-top movements. I could tell with that level of near-constant activity that she loved the active life. To this day, she is always the one who wants to go hiking, sledding, bike riding. She loves dancing and sports and exploring. She's 12.</p> <p>This started in utero. She's as much a person, created in God's image, a citizen of this state and country, as I am. As you are. As your family members are.</p> <p>My second pregnancy was shortened. I never felt my son move, never held him, never saw his face. I miscarried him in an incredibly painful and bloody experience that I don't wish on anyone. I had incredibly callous and heinous things said to me at this time as well from people thinking it was no big deal, no different from a period.</p> <p>I can tell you, the intense depression and pain from losing a child is real and not a clump of cells to be flushed.</p> <p>The hole in my own heart is not from a period. He was my son, dearly loved, and I miss him every day. He would have been 10.</p> <p>My third pregnancy was even more different. My second daughter was incredibly calm. She didn't bounce around like my oldest, but preferred to gently stretch from time to time in utero. My husband called her a sloth. Today, she is much calmer than her sister. She views the world in less intensity, but with a thoughtful kind of peace. She's almost 9.</p> <p>This also started in the womb.</p> <p>My children, who you may meet someday, are people. They started as people at conception. They deserve to have their rights protected at any stage. They are YOUR kids' peers. Your kids are people and were people from conception. They bring perspectives into this world that are unique to them, just as you and I do as adults.</p> <p>None of you should lose your rights, or be dehumanized through discrimination, based on how old you are, what your location is, how much you depend on others to survive, or what you happen to look like today. Neither do I. Neither do these children. Vote no.</p>
<p>Lisa Maclean Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote against HB 1279. How is this 'equity'? An abortion can happen for any reason, at any time with this bill? Girl? Wanted a boy? Abort. Changed my mind moments before birth? Abort a fully viable baby. A minor is trafficked, becomes pregnant? Abort. Another minor is pregnant and has an abortion without parental notification? This bill is evil and is being fast-tracked like no other bill I've watched. Vote against HB 1279.</p>

<p>Michele Markham Against Self</p>	<p>Testifying Against HB 1279</p> <p>I am testifying AGAINST HB 1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act.</p> <p>I am writing to be a voice for those most vulnerable, those who do not have a voice, the unborn.</p> <p>I am writing for the person who already exists, not one who might be. From the moment of conception, nothing can change that person from who they are.</p> <p>I am writing for the beating heart that means life. I didn't need my nursing license to tell me that.</p> <p>However, this legislation proposes to silence that voice, deny that person a right to life and extinguish that beating heart.</p> <p>This legislation is out of touch with the desires of millions of Colorado voters. Do not suppress the voices of the many Coloradans who oppose the murder of children through abortion.</p> <p>Please vote "no" on HB 1279.</p>
<p>Michelle Conkey-Sajban Against Self</p>	<p>Hello, as a mother and Coloradan I am grieved by this legislation. Additionally, as an employee of a Boulder County nonprofit serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), such as Down Syndrome, I find this legislation to be the farthest thing from Reproductive Health Equity.</p> <p>HB 1279 doesn't protect women undergoing abortion, rather it prioritizes abortion over the health and safety of women. Additionally, this Bill destroys the life of preborn babies even if the baby has the "wrong sex," "wrong race," or has disabilities. Where is the equity in that? I would say this bill supports racist, sexist and discriminatory practices. Finally, HB 1279 does nothing to address the root problems that a woman faces that drives her to consider an abortion.</p> <p>With decades serving persons with IDD, I see the consequences of this bill causing greater harm than good. It misses the mark entirely and will leave a void and unfathomable loss of the love and goodness that children and persons with disabilities contribute to their families and society. We are a better people and society when we love, not when we destroy.</p> <p>Sincerely, Michelle Conkey-Sajban</p>
<p>James Opperman Against Harvest Bible Church</p>	<p>There is no basis whatsoever for rejecting a pre-born baby's human rights: Life and personhood begins at conception and therefore pre-born children have human rights that are to be protected and preserved according to the United States Constitution. Any other determination of</p>

	<p>when personhood begins is widely disagreed upon and arbitrarily determined. Levels of development and dependence among the children do not determine life or personhood and certainly do not permit authority to take away life. To pass this bill is to ignore human rights, to ignore parental authority and responsibility, and to embrace gross perversions of justice against human rights. The truly painful situations that are commonly discussed such as cases of medical emergencies for the mother, rape, incest, and developmental issues constitute less than 2% of all abortion cases and such a small percentage by no means requires such unrestricted allowance of abortion.</p>
<p>Deanna Smith Against Self</p>	<p>I am against this bill.</p>
<p>Phyllis Acker Against Self</p>	<p>I am very against the use of Federal, State or Local governmental tax dollars (my hard earned tax dollars) to facilitate and enable a woman's decision to have an abortion. I see that as governmental interference, making it far easier to make that life scarring decision. Abortion is a moral, ethical double edge sword grappled with in the most vulnerable time in a woman's life. Determining the very permanent decision to end a viable, promising human life which is part of HER. Planned Parenthood and other entities like them, although touting the "GOOD" reproductive and preventative health services that they provide for women of "ALL AGES" is a panacea for filtering tax dollars to themselves for ABORTION services. I was there once, 50 + years ago, at that precipice. I had my sweet baby boy, love him always and lived my life righteously from then until today and never regretted a moment of the struggles and rewards. How could anyone deny any woman the choice to freely choose her destiny. Our trials, and our decisions for good or evil build who we are. The government and HB22-1279 should have NO PART IN THAT.</p>
<p>James Smith Against Self</p>	<p>This is an irresponsible bill that promotes discrimination and does not represent the will of most Colorado residents</p>
<p>Amy Weinstein For Self</p>	<p>As a teen and young woman in my 20s, I took two of my friends to have an abortion. I checked back with these women many years later and they let me know this was the right decision for them at the time and they had no regrets. I am now in my sixties and grateful that I could help my two friends at that time, some 40 years ago in Colorado. I have also known family members and friends, from both sides of the political spectrum, who have elected to have abortions. This really is not a right or left issue. It is an issue that, no matter sex or gender orientation, all people have equal rights, under the 9th and 14th amendments of the US Constitution, to make their own health care decision. This is crucial. One sex cannot have preferential treatment over another. The important thing here is to recognize that the right of people under these amendments are basic rights afforded in the United States to all people.</p>

	<p>This bill, which fundamentally gives all people the right to make reproductive health care decision for themselves, should be passed. It should then be codified into our state constitution as well, so that people making these important decisions for themselves, will always be able to make them.</p>
<p>Jim Bachta Against Self</p>	<p>I am strongly opposed to the Reproductive Health Equity Act. Colorado has always been known for its natural beauty; if passed, this bill will make us notorious for our moral ugliness. The provisions of the bill, which propose no limits on the practice of abortion, deny what both science and reason affirm about the humanity of the unborn child and about consequent emotional, physical, and social tragedies that impact not only the unborn and their parents but also all society for generations to come. This radical bill contradicts the will of the people of Colorado, and indeed the whole nation, who have repeatedly expressed the desire to limit abortion. RHEA is both unjust and grievously wrong-headed. Please turn away from sending it forward from your committee to the legislature. Stop RHEA today.</p>
<p>Trevor Wood Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote NO on HB22-1279.</p> <p>This extreme bill would arguably make CO the most pro-abortion state in the nation. It would prohibit parental notification and the protection of babies who are targeted based on characteristics such as disabilities. It would also ban any future local regulations - regardless of new situations that may arise.</p> <p>Please vote against HB22-1279. In fact, please consider the testimony from Pastor Jeff Durbin, who testified before the CO legislature on behalf of the Bill for Equal Protection. Here is the testimony: <a href="https://youtu.be/qyYNDd66A7s">https://youtu.be/qyYNDd66A7s</a>.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing your vote, which I hope extends to considering the life of the unborn child.</p>
<p>Cassandra Ortler Against Self</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>When I was a teenager, a group of women and I were handing out pamphlets to support an abolitionists movement. We left one at a house, where in the open garage, was a group of drunken men. They preceded to come out and yell at us about how abortion was a woman's right and that we should stop handing out these flyers and stop telling women what to do.</p> <p>I yelled back, "Interestingly enough, you you are all men, and we are all women."</p> <p>I left it at that. No need to argue drunken fools. That encounter lead me to realize how often abortion is used by men and women as a guise of empowering women. There is nothing powerful about choosing to snuff out the life of an innocent person just because you can. As a woman, and a mother, it disgusts me that our government thinks it has the authority</p>

	<p>to tell me I can legally murder my children and that somehow by having the freedom to do so, empowers me in any way. It's the exact opposite of empowerment. True empowerment, is encouraging a woman that she is strong enough to raise her children. We compare a mama bear protecting her cubs to being powerful, we would never compare power to the female animal who eats her own young.</p> <p>They're are women who are proud about having murdered their children. With the shout your abortion movement. But this only proves the wickedness of humanity. There were many proud slave owner and Nazis. They were emboldened by the law, not empowered. After all, the law is the great teacher. When you make laws protecting the transgression of human rights, it isn't before long you have a generation that shouts their abortion, or goes to war over their slaves. Both are wrong. Both put the strong over the weak, both deny humans their God given rights to life and liberty. You have the responsibility to make the law reflect what is right. All of history is watching. Which side will you be on? The side that permits the murder of our most innocent? Or the side that stood up against the oppression of our smallest citizens?</p> <p>Please, vote against HB22-1279. Unborn future generations are counting on you.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Joy Braunlich Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote NO on this horrendous bill. To kill a baby up to the day of his birth is an atrocity. I pray that you will fight this legislation! Especially if you claim to be a Republican, we will fight to remove you from office if you do not vote NO!</p>
<p>Telsche Crandall Against Self</p>	<p>My name is Telsche Crandall and I live in Fort Collins, Colorado. Having been diagnosed with severe preeclampsia last year, I know firsthand what it's like to be a woman whose life is in danger as a result of her pregnancy. The only way to prevent the worst was to have an emergency C-section, so my son was born at 32 weeks. He spent the last couple of months in the NICU. I'm sharing our story today to advocate for babies like him and their right to exist. While I was in the NICU, I got to see the people that are normally hidden from view inside the womb - and they are the most wonderful, tiny, resilient little humans. My 3 lb son was born with an expressive face, exquisite little fingers and toes, and a feisty temperament. He could turn his head toward my voice, remembering from when he heard it inside the womb. As I watched him transform over what would have been my last trimester of pregnancy, I knew that I was privy to an experience that most of the lawmakers on this issue never have. They never have to look at the victims of the laws they advocate for. Right now in Colorado, not only can a baby like my</p>

	<p>32 week old son be executed in the womb, but abortions can happen up until point of birth, which means a baby this size can be killed and dismembered in the womb. This is what this bill is seeking to enshrine into the Colorado constitution. This bill shockingly states that babies do not "have independent or derivative rights under the laws of this state." As I spent two months in the NICU, I wondered, why do these babies get to live while others are killed? Does being wanted by someone grant you the right to exist? Any baby like these, if born to a different situation, could be being ripped apart by forceps right now rather than given oxygen and a feeding tube. Does being a certain race mean you get to exist? The bill also states that we should be prioritizing abortion care for "communities of color". So these lawmakers apparently would like the outcome of fewer non-white babies being born in our communities. This bill represents a kind of state-sponsored bigotry that I would expect this body to be vehemently opposed to. I urge you all to vote against this bill that denies an entire group of Coloradans the fundamental right to exist. Thank you.</p>
<p>Joel Patchen Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Representatives, Please vote unanimously against HB22-1279. Five decades of unrestrained abortion is enough. Coloradan's deserve better than abortion, a scientific denial of the highest order. Biologists, medical scientists, doctors, and common sense people everywhere agree that human life begins at fertilization, the joining of sperm and egg. With ultrasound technology, frozen embryo adoption, and fetal surgery all prevalent today, it is ludicrous to contend that the developing zygote or embryo is not a human being. Pregnancy once begun is not a choice, it's a reality. Please stop pretending you don't know this truth. Frankly, anyone who looks at pregnancy objectively will conclude that a new human being is developing. A life that possesses self-directing DNA, separate organs, and often a different blood type and gender from its mother. We have laws that protect endangered species, but not children in the womb. How shameful. Colorado will not become a state that affords its citizens true equality and justice until it eradicates the practice of abortion. HB22-1279 seeks to permanently codify discrimination against Colorado's most vulnerable pre-born children. Children of every creed and color. A sick and cruel practice that rivals slavery, racism, and anti-semitism in its evil!</p> <p>I have personally experienced the concrete reality of fetal life in the womb through my pre-term daughter, Brooke. A daughter who showed me the beauty of fetal life before an illness took her life. But unlike an aborted child, Brooke was afforded the opportunity to fight for her life. A gift HB22-1279 seeks to strip from other children because they are classified, erroneously, as non-persons. What a barbarity, we've engaged in. All human life, including yours and mine, began at fertilization. It's well past the time to recognize the facts and put this egregious form of science denial, discrimination, and atrocity behind us. Let's say no to HB22-1279 and yes to our future, the developing children of Colorado. Please don't be one of those leaders that lines up on the wrong side of</p>

	<p>history like George Wallace. Reject HB22-1279 and work toward the liberation of the pre-born and the betterment of our state for all our people! Thanks for your time, Joel Patchen</p>
<p>D Stoddard Against Self</p>	<p>I am representing the youngest and most vulnerable of our state, our children cruelly ripped from the safety of a womb. This is not freedom for all when with the provisions of HR 22-1279. Allowing abortion up to 40 weeks takes the life of a child. As a mother of 4, I have felt each of our children moving around at around 20 weeks. How can anyone deny that is a life and that precious small life deserves protection as much as any other person?</p>
<p>Kelly Green Against Self</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.</p> <p>I am opposed to this bill. It would allow abortion with no restrictions on the state of Colorado. I am opposed to abortion in general but this bill is especially concerning for these reasons:</p> <p>A person who denies a pregnant woman the ability to have an abortion would be prosecuted by this law. Would this include parents of minor teenage girls who find themselves pregnant? Young women need their parents to help them navigate complicated situations like this and this bill would keep parents from being able to help their daughters.</p> <p>What happens in the case of a violent crime against a pregnant woman in which the unborn baby is injured or killed? Will they be able to get justice if an unborn baby has no rights?</p> <p>Partial birth abortion will be legal with this bill. This is infanticide. A baby who is able to survive outside its mother is brutally killed moments before it would be born.</p> <p>On a personal note, I am a Colorado native who adopted a son through foster care in Denver County. I am so grateful that his mom did not decide to have an abortion even though she was in a difficult situation at the time. Rather than focusing on ending life, please instead focus on how we can help the underlying problems that cause a woman to seek to end her pregnancy.</p> <p>Please do not pass this bill.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kelly Green</p>
<p>Geralyn Juen Against LifeNetwork</p>	<p>I urge you to preserve and value life as humans from the time of conceptio as it is harmful to women, babies and families. Also, I see how things like parental notification can make a difference in a young person not feel isolated from their parents.</p>

	<p>Thank you</p>
<p>Jessi Mabis Against Self</p>	<p>I know first-hand how destructive actions like this will be to women, men and families. We see everyday how things like parental notification can make a difference in a young person not feel isolated and choosing to parent – this bill would undo that, among other things that are harmful to women, babies and families.</p>
<p>Roger Butts For The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado</p>	<p>Thank you for your service. Whatever side of the aisle you are on, your commitment to Colorado is deeply appreciated. I hope you hear this often.</p> <p>My name is Rev Roger Butts and I am a minister at Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church in Parker and at All Souls Church in Colorado Springs.</p> <p>I have a long history of working alongside interfaith partners, ordained and lay. Sometimes we agree on everything. Sometimes we don't. But many of my United Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Jewish, Episcopal, and Baptist clergy colleagues join me in advocating for reproductive rights and would join me at this desk to urge your support of the Reproductive Health Equity Act.</p> <p>As a person of faith and a clergy person, I am part of a religious tradition that has long advocated for access to abortion. Our first Unitarian Universalist resolution in support of safe and legal access to abortion passed in 1963.</p> <p>My faith claims that every person has the right to determine what happens to their own body at all phases of life—including if, when, and how they want to have children. As people of faith, this commitment is part of our deepest religious values: Unitarian Universalism proclaims that all individuals and communities have the right to self-determination, safety, and the resources that are necessary for health and sustainability.</p> <p>I have sat with many who have had to make painful choices about how to proceed around an unwanted pregnancy.</p> <p>I know there are no easy answers. No absolutes. And sometimes that means abortion is the best decision a woman can make in her unique circumstances. This legislation leaves it in the hands of the women and their partners and doctors to determine the best course of action, as it should be.</p> <p>I support providing the fullest range of reproductive health care possible, to all who need it. This is why I come to urge you to support HB-22-1279. And to thank you for introducing this important legislation.</p>

	<p>The only reason I can see that anyone would oppose this legislation is because of their understanding of religious mandates. I am here simply to say that there are many of us clergy who are committed to standing up for the human rights and human dignity of all women and all who must make this kind of life-impacting decision.</p> <p>As a person of faith and as a member of the clergy, I urge you to support HB-22-1279.</p>
<p>Kelsey Buckingham Against Self</p>	<p>My name is Kelsey Buckingham and I am here to ask you to vote no on Bill 22-1279. Why is it that we as Coloradans are more interested in protecting wolves than protecting the life of an unborn baby? We pass legislation that ensures that wolves are protected, and yet we want to pass legislation that denies protection for the most vulnerable, an unborn human baby. How many more millions of babies will have to be aborted before we view unborn babies are endangered? Why do we want to ensure that a woman has a “fundamental right” to kill a human baby without government interference and yet we want that same government to interfere to protect a wild animal? I’m baffled at the hypocrisy that we as a society care less about protecting the unborn babies that are being killed by the millions and more about protecting a wild animal. If you sincerely care about protecting vulnerable populations, then see abortion for what it is and vote no on Bill 22-1279. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Robert-Dan Neilson Against Self</p>	<p>This is a decree from Heaven... "Thou shalt not kill, nor do anything like unto it." Abortion is "like unto it."</p> <p>My first child was born just after 1973. The Doctor who delivered him also performed abortions at the time. I marveled how he could both deliver the living and destroy the living. Because Roe vs. Wade was just taking hold, I became a political activist.</p> <p>Since 1973 millions of lives have been terminated by would-be mothers, health-care providers, and non-government organizations. My body, my choice became the mantra, the body of the unborn not withstanding.</p> <p>If insurance providers want to participate in terminating a living soul, that is their business. But my tax dollars should not be involved.</p> <p>If an absolute determined decision to abort is made by the would-be mother, it should be done within the first 8 to 10 weeks of pregnancy. After that it should be a crime against humanity.</p>

<p>Charlene Farrell Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to write my appeal to you. I believe that HB22-1279 is immoral. Innocent life is valuable, every life is unique and has intrinsic value. I have value, you have value, every unborn child has value. we are designed to grow and mature and for our lives to have an impact on this world. Not to be snuffed out with an abortion. It is written in the first of scripture that God, the author of life, breathes life into every man and woman. God gives life and that gives value for life, because of God's value for life each baby in their mother's womb is valued and precious. We are all known by God at conception and are considered an eternal being at that moment of conception. To deliberately destroy that life before birth and as this bill reads even at birth is premeditated murder of an innocent person. No human being (mother) should be granted rights by state government to usurp the rights of another person (preborn child)! I appeal that you do not pass this destructive bill, removing parental rights, destroying the family unit and ultimately destroying women. This is women's history month, that history is blood stained and will be one of genocide should this bill be passed. I again appeal to stop this bill and stop killing our innocent babies.</p>
<p>Suzanne Wales Against Self</p>	<p>I was a young college student with a toddler to support, now I found myself laying in bed crying and hating every flip and kick that was jabbing my abdomen. All I could say was Stop to the tiny human inside of me. It took me back to that day- I had tried to get out. I was biting, scratching, trying desperately to get out from the grip of those tree trunk arms out from under the pressure of his body. All he said was, "You can't tell anyone. No one will believe you." Now I was carrying a miniature version of him.</p> <p>Yes, my Doctor pushed me to terminate his life and yes, I considered it but I could not bring myself to be a monster to a helpless human like the monster who had deliberately tried to ruin my life. Little did I know that one day I would be grateful to have the opportunity to mother such an amazing human. Does my son look like his father? -A little bit, but this generous young man is not a monster. My son is a successful independent adult who advocates for women.</p> <p>I kept him and have had the privilege of raising him to be a caring individual who contributes to society instead of taking from it. Sometimes I wonder what life would be like without him. The rough times grew us. The happy times have given us memories to cherish, like watching his 3 younger siblings follow him on hikes as if they were his ducklings, having him join me on a late-night sewing project, or observing him and his slightly older sister grow up as best friends. This bill will deprive women of the opportunity to grow, heal, to step outside of themselves, to learn that children are a blessing, not an inconvenience.</p>

	<p>This bill will deprive so many humans the chance to make their world better, or at least those around them better people. Please do not make it easier to murder a human who does not have the capacity to defend themselves. As a Certified Community DV Advocate, I believe strongly in women's rights. This bill does not promote the wellbeing of women; it weakens women.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to share,</p> <p>Suzanne Wales</p>
<p>Christy Fidura Against Self</p>	<p>This bill fundamentally infringes on the Constitution by taking aim at the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that would be afforded to these unborn babies by cutting their lives short. While many things may look good or righteous on paper, it is my hope that the voting members of this body look past what looks good on paper and see the lives and potential cut short by these decisions. It should weigh heavily on the minds and consciences of those who have the ability to vote down this vile bill and should, instead, be advocating more for the so-called marginalized population to have access to education that would minimize the likelihood of unwanted pregnancies. And, I notice that nobody is talking about the destination of these unwanted children who will be born into this world, discarded, and then "made comfortable" under the allowances of this bill. Nobody wants to discuss the harvest of these viable bodies. You will have to be accountable for the consequences of your actions today. I hope for the sake of the most innocent of these victims, the babies, and for your own peace, you vote against this heinous bill and overreach of government to allow murder to be just another form of birth control.</p>
<p>Rosemary Samaniego Against Self</p>	<p>Peace be with you, Today, my eyes , ears and aching heart are wide open to the events occurring before me. I am a happily married woman of 37 years. I have seen many change of events over time and the one freedom I have embraced and never taken for granted is the freedom to pursue my career goals and dreams while raising six children. My children were my reason and not my excuse for living my life to the fullest. All of our six children and gone on to pursue continued education and are now thriving, contributing citizens in their communities. I strongly oppose Bill#22-1279. My religious beliefs prevent me from being an accomplice to murder. When you force me to pay for another's abortion; I become guilty of murder along with you. Please recall the Ten Commandments Moses the Great Prophet of God Almighty was given to share to all believers and non-believers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before me- Lust of flesh, lust of power. lust of pride</li> <li>2) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Call on Him only if you need Him. We need you God</li> </ol>

	<p>3) Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day. Do not work, rest and rejuvenate your body. This is a command given to you by God.</p> <p>4) Honor thy father and thy mother- they chose life or you would not be here to read this.</p> <p>5) Thou shall not kill-no excuses here.</p> <p>6) Thou shalt not commit adultery-be true to God and true to yourself</p> <p>7) Thou shalt not steal- you are stealing the unborn child's life; it is not yours to take</p> <p>8) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor-you are outwardly lying to these girls/women that this is the best we have to offer them. Shame on you.</p> <p>9) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.</p> <p>10) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.</p> <p>I am a teacher of the Catholic faith for over a decade. I love God, my family, and my career. In this order, I keep a good balance. May God search your hearts and souls this very day. Your eternal happiness depends on it. I am praying you do the right thing and vote NO.</p> <p>Thank you for reading this all the way to end.</p> <p>Viva Cristo Rey!</p>
<p>John Slattery Against Self</p>	<p>As a citizen of the United States of America and a native of the State of Colorado, I object to HB 22-1279 and fully desire to make this objection known and demand this objection receive full and due consideration.</p> <p>Upon a reasoned examination, it cannot be found rational that abortion is a natural right of humanity. This is self-evident in the simple biological fact that every human being who has ever walked this earth was once a fertilized egg that grew into a fetus that was birthed as a human baby. That includes every one of you who is considering this bill. What possible reason could ever justify that you had a greater right to life than another who, by no fault or action of themselves, was unable to receive the amazing gift of their own creation because this was terminated by an abortion before their birth.</p> <p>The rhetoric supporting this action devolves into nothing less than such a person was not a person because they were merely a fetus, described in the rhetoric as "a mass of tissue" undeserving of the rights and protections of our constitution.</p> <p>I may remind you that slavery in the United States was considered justified because the ethnicities of those enslaved were considered "sub-human". Hitler justified the murder of millions of Jews and others on these grounds. In effect, current abortion laws only guarantee the protections of our constitution for a baby that has exited the birth canal alive. How can this be justice?</p> <p>I find it a true poverty that a woman's ability to bring forth a new human life is considered a potential disability, an inequality, or worse, a matter of property rather than the powerful and profound gift that it is.</p> <p>I believe that we should be a better people than this and the justice of our laws should reflect this. Every one of us had a mother that said yes to our existence-whether the circumstances were optimal or not and</p>

	<p>whether that father was honorable or not. That is heroism, not vulnerability.</p> <p>I implore you to end this bill now.</p> <p>John Slattery</p>
<p>Kenneth Sparks Against Self</p>	<p>HB22-1279 bill is a travesty of policy and law and should not be passed. It is a human child that is being formed in the womb, it is not an inanimate object, but a living, functioning human being in development, deserving of protection and possessing rights. The fact that a baby may or may not survive outside the womb does not make it any less than a human. Just like an elderly person on life support, unable to survive without that support does not make them any less of a human. The logic of this law flies in the face of logic and in the face of human decency and dignity. It is infanticide and we will pay the price, as a society, to allow "choice" to include the option to terminate a life. Do not pass this bill.</p>
<p>Marcela Schott Against Colorado Right to Life</p>	<p>I implore you to take every possible action to protect the 2,363 American citizens whose lives are ended EACH DAY through the tragic act of abortion.</p>
<p>Trenton Girkins Against Self</p>	<p>I am against this bill!!</p>
<p>Angela Davis Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you Madame Chair and committee. My name is Angela Davis and I represent myself and the preborn who have no voice. I am asking for a "no" vote on HB22-1279.</p> <p>"The Reproductive Health Equity Act": This bill is anything but equitable. Equitable is defined as "dealing fairly and equally with all concerned". What is equitable about denying a human in utero acknowledgment or basic human rights? Call the bill what it is please...an abortion protection bill. "Reproduction is the biological process by which new individual organisms or "offspring" are produced. Reproduction is a fundamental feature of all known life." Abortion ends a life. Period.</p> <p>I understand that denying the human aspect of an aborted baby is sometimes the only way you can champion the abortion procedure. However, denying human life because it makes an abortion story easier is not what laws should be made of. The verbiage "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state", does not belong in Colorado law. Human life deserves to be recognized with dignity. The conversations here today are dismissive at best towards women who have experienced the heartache of miscarriage or stillbirth by suggesting their grief is unwarranted. Colorado can and should strive to do better. Please vote no on HB22-1279. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Erica Lisby</p>	<p>Please vote no on this bill.</p>

Against Self	
Raymond Higgins Against Self	<p>I want to record my opposition to this bill (HB22. 1279). The fertilized human egg is a human life. It is a human life. There have been many attempts to define exactly when life begins over the past 50 years. Even pro abortion advocates agree it is a human life. So the conversation is re-directed to 'quality of life', the rights of the mother.... It is a human life and as such, is precious in the eyes of God.</p>
Pauline Higgins Against Self	<p>I am against this bill as I must defend those who cannot defend themselves. Abortion is the taking of a human life. Everyone knows it is a human life. I pray for all our legislators that they may vote against this bill.</p>
Evelyn Hunter Against Self	<p>I am writing to beg you to vote No against the abortion bill. We should not kill unborn babies. We must protect the most vulnerable among us. We are shocked and outraged at Putin bombing a children's hospital where mothers were in labor. But isn't that hypocritical if this bill would allow abortion right up until birth?</p> <p>We should support mothers and fathers in every way possible, who do not want their babies; find homes for the babies, help mothers get back on their feet, do whatever it takes, help/require the fathers to be responsible also. If we are excited about our pregnancy then it's a baby. If we're not we call it a fetus so we don't have to feel like murderers. It's crazy. These decisions should be between a woman and her doctor, not the government. And the criteria there is, "First do no harm." I had four miscarriages. Every one of them was a baby. It tore my heart out.</p>
Gordon Carroll Against Self	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen</p> <p>My name is Gordon Carroll. I will try and keep this short since, after all, it's really a very simple issue. Life begins at conception. All of science, all of nature, and the God of the Universe says so.</p> <p>Everyone knows it. Anyone that says otherwise is either a liar or a self-deluded liar.</p> <p>God has stated that murder is the killing of the innocent. No one is more innocent than an unborn baby.</p> <p>The Constitution of the United States of America recognizes God's law when it affirms our unalienable God-given rights, to life and liberty. Without life, there can be no liberty.</p>

	<p>Every human was once a baby in their mother’s womb. We all started out small, but alive, and human, from the instant of creation. And so are entitled to the rights given by God. No man or woman, or group of men or women, have the right to legislate God’s entitlements. No one on this panel, or this government, or any government, has the right to say it’s okay for themselves, or anyone else, to murder anyone.</p> <p>Not a civilian, not a cop, not a doctor, not a politician.</p> <p>I was a United States Marine for seven years, a front line Law Enforcement officer for thirty-five years. I swore an oath to protect innocent life.</p> <p>You all swore similar oaths when you took office. You will be held accountable to those oaths. Be careful what you put your name to. Lives depend on you being careful.</p> <p>History will judge you. But far more important, Jesus Christ will judge you.</p> <p>So, please, attend to your oath. Protect the most innocent and vulnerable of us all. Those who can not protect themselves.</p> <p>And vote NO, on HB22-1279.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Julie Duffy Against Self</p>	<p>The very idea that legislation of this type could be possible is so disturbing and disgusting. How can there be such a disregard for human life? No one has the right to use their body to harm another innocent person. That’s why laws exist, to prevent people from doing what they want with their bodies; a man does not have the right to do what he wants with his body and rape a woman, a person does not have the right to do what they want with their body and use their hands to kill another person, a person does not have the right to use their body to own another person as property, a Russian soldier does not have the right to use their body to shoot an innocent Ukrainian, a person does not have the right to harm someone of different, race, sexual orientation, age, etc. People do not have the right to do what they want with their body when it involves harming another innocent person. This is exactly and fundamentally why abortion is wrong. It is the willful harming of another person’s body - a body that’s living and growing innocently, inside the womb. To discriminate against a living human being in such a way is beyond comprehension in our world today! Those innocent humans have no way to protect themselves! Pre-born babies deserve to be protected under the law - not sentenced to death by it! I urge you to vote NO!</p>

<p>Judy Moore Against Self</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, in Jesus' Name please open the hearts and minds of all those working on passing this bill for them to be able to see and understand clearly the great evil in abortion. Heavenly Father, You are the Author of life and the Creator of all life. May we humble ourselves and accept Your beautiful design and plan for our lives. May we realize that as women if we are blessed to conceive a child that this is the greatest blessing that can be bestowed upon us because children are a blessing from You! Heavenly Father, in Jesus' Name may all people be able to know and value the lives of all human beings from the very moment they are conceived until the time of natural death. May we put away our selfishness, and realize that the greatest thing we can do in our lives is love and care for those that are in our lives! Children are the embodiment of true love! Having the opportunity to care for a child is a gift that can teach us how to truly love another by laying down our lives for the good of the child! Please let us not destroy these beautiful gifts that You give to us! Father, in Jesus' Name heal our hearts, minds, and souls of all that keeps us from understanding and accepting that children are a gift and blessing from you! May we protect the lives of children at every cost! In Jesus' Name. Amen.</p>
<p>Bobby Young Questions Only Self</p>	<p>How do you know with absolute certainty that reproductive health is under attack? Why are all these legislation's across the country supporting heartbeat bills? Does not life start when you can detect a heartbeat? How is life created? If life creation is out of your control, why are you giving license to end it? Why have all the attempts of the past to bring forth this type of legislation failed? Do you listen to the majority of the people here in Colorado, who have rejected this time and time again, or not? What about the silent voice of that life in the womb? Don't their voices matter? You state that the opposition to this bill is politically motivated, but are you not politically motivated as well? You want equity for all Colorado, so why not for the life in the womb? You say that life in the womb has no rights, why is that, and how do you know they have no rights? Do ALL "Stages" of reproductive health include cost free adoption? How many families do you know who are willing to adopt, but cannot afford it? You want all reproductive health to be affordable, so why not the same for adoption? If you pass this bill, will abortion costs go up, or will they go down? How could they not go up dramatically when sexual intercourse is on the rise, and with no consequences for this activity? Who pays for all of this? Can you create legislation for all of Colorado who don't want to pay for all these new clinics that will have to be built and staffed to support all the new increases for abortion? Can they have the option to not have their hard earned dollars fund something they do not support? Equity for all?</p>
<p>Elizabeth Chacon Against Self</p>	<p>The abortion law is adequate as exists today. Most of today's testifiers acted as if abortion were not legal in the state today; in fact, Colorado has one of the most liberal abortion laws on the books today. Children are our only hope and future and we should move away from laws that eliminate their rights. The more stringent requirements take away children's rights. The "my body my choice" argument is a myth, no</p>

	<p>woman is allowed to kill a baby outside the womb with her body. Women can't violate the laws of society with their bodies, they will get arrested if caught.</p> <p>For those of faith, seriously consider whether God wants mothers to abort their children. It is completely unnatural</p> <p>Babies of rape are victims too, why kill the victim. I am unaware of any other crime where it is encouraged to kill the victim of a crime.</p> <p>Legislators should consider the words of Jesus when they evaluate this bill, "Even so it is not the will of your Father, who is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." How will God treat those that support such a bill that promotes violence toward children?</p>
Richard Deppe Against Self	The killing of a fully viable infant is murder. I stand against abortion in all cases, but if passed, this bill legalizes infanticide and those passing this piece of legislature should be held accountable to murder.
Holly Watson Against Self	To whom it may concern it is with great pain I share that I have had an abortion. The one and only thing in my entire life that if I could do differently I would. A pain I will carry the rest of my life. My permanent decision based on temporary circumstances and emotions will haunt me the rest of my life and nothing will bring my baby back. I cannot stand the thought of any other person going through this agony. I am begging you not to pass this bill. For the sake of others with so much pain I ask to stop this today. Do not pass this as it is murder. I went into my appointment that day and had an abortion and in my eyes today I took part in the murder of my unborn baby via an abortion. It is the worst of pains over 25 years later.
Diane Birden Against Self	<p>Please please VOTE NO on HB 1279-Reproductive Health Equity Act.</p> <p>There are many other options for a pregnancy other than abortion. For instance, adoption. I experienced this and was able to meet my adopted child after she was an adult. She had a wonderful life with her adopted parents. Meeting her was the most wonderful day of my life.</p> <p>It is not necessary to have this type of legislation.</p> <p>Please, please VOTE NO.</p>
Brooke Sprinkle Against Colorado right to Life	<p>I wanted to take time today and give testimony that the life of the unborn is valuable. I want to speak up for those who can not speak for themselves. The unborn lives that are priceless. This bill should not move forward due to the vague writing.</p> <p>"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched — they must be felt with the heart." — Hellen Keller</p>
Jay Inman Against Self	<p>Good evening and thank-you for hearing me</p> <p>The Reproductive health equity act is repugnant. The last sentence in the Bill summary states that a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state.</p> <p>It's as if you are attempting to use a magic legislative wand to legalize the murder of our most innocent and vulnerable individuals.</p>

	<p>From conception, that little one has a unique DNA package and in a few short weeks, a heartbeat. They are individuals.                  Like slaves, that our nation fought a civil war to free, these little ones are silent with no voice in their demise. This bill would remove their individuality for purposes that can only be labelled as execution, denying them due process under our constitution.                  All people are endowed by our sovereign creator with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, in His image. Even the unborn.                  This bill is nothing less than justification and legalization of infanticide.                  Thank you for listening</p>
<p>Daniel Oehling                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>DATE: March 9th, 2022                  Time: 1:30 PM</p> <p>House Bill 22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act</p> <p>Colorado General Assembly                  200 E Colfax Avenue                  Denver, CO 80203</p> <p>Dear Madam Chair Susan Lontine, Vice Chair David Ortiz and all members of the House Health and Insurance Committee:</p> <p>My name is Daniel Oehling; I am testifying on behalf of myself. I am testifying against House Bill 22-1279 which would grant fundamental rights to individuals pertaining to the use of contraception as well as granting pregnant individuals the fundamental right to abortion. Further, I am against House Bill 22-1279 which would prohibit a fertilized egg(s), embryo(s), and fetus(es) independent and derivative rights.</p> <p>We should not be the ones to plot down a time or measurement for the termination of a fertilized egg or any other stage of development (Which is known as a child.) during anytime the process for pregnancy starts for a human being.</p> <p>Each other states do not have the same idea for this measurement or agreement, nor do individuals in CO with each other on this subject, for when a child in the womb is allowed to be murdered during a pregnancy. This just shows how inadequate it is for us to state opinion or ideas we make up out of thin air, versus the fact that a child is a child from when the egg is fertilized and the pregnancy process begins.</p> <p>There is no scientific documentation of getting life from non-life. If a living mother has a fertilized egg it only grows from life which we should not take away under any circumstances, just like we would not pull the plug on a human being in a coma.</p>

	<p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>- Daniel Oehling.</p>
<p>Anthony Oehling Against Self</p>	<p>Let's say you wake up, and find yourself on a ship surrounded by a crew and captain. The captain discusses with his crewmen that it is a risk to have a foreign individual on board (you). What should the captain do? Risk bringing you to the other side of the sea and hiding you, throw you overboard to die, or bring you back to a safe-landing.</p> <p>in 1981, at a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Dr. Watson A. Bowes of the University of Colorado Medical School asserted: "The beginning of a single human life is from a biological point of view a simple and straightforward matter — the beginning is conception. This straightforward biological fact should not be distorted to serve sociological, political or economic goals."</p> <p>After examining the evidence, the Senate subcommittee reported: "Physicians, biologists and other scientists agree that conception marks the beginning of the life of a human being — a being that is alive and is a member of the human species. There is overwhelming agreement on this point in countless medical, biological and scientific writings."</p>
<p>Heidi Petak Against Self</p>	<p>Mr. Chair and Committee Members, thank you for this opportunity. My name is Dr. Heidi Petak, and I'm here representing myself as a communication consultant for the Abortion Survivors Network. I'm against this bill because of the abortion survivors I've had the privilege of knowing because of my line of work.</p> <p>There are now 547 abortion survivors who have connected with the Abortion Survivors Network. These are all amazing people who miraculously survived being aborted as babies and are now redeeming their stories by blessing their communities. They have compassionate and forgiving hearts towards their birth mothers. And they are evidence that unwanted children are real people who have the right to live and to redeem their stories.</p> <p>My client Amy Miles is one such survivor. She has cerebral palsy because of the abortion procedure, but she survived and was adopted by a loving couple who was not able to have children. Amy is redeeming her story, and is now a mother of two beautiful children and is a teacher in a public school for children with special needs. Generations of people will exist because she exists.</p> <p>But, as you know, most don't survive being aborted. And when we speak of women's rights, Amy was a woman in the womb who could not hold up a sign that said, "Hands off my body." But her body was nearly destroyed by the hands of an abortionist. This bill has the word "equity in it," but I have to ask, where is the equity for women like Amy in in the state of CO?</p>

	<p>A woman here in CO who would be viable outside the womb has the right to redeem her story that began with the word “unwanted.” But in any great movie that’s just the “inciting incident.” Perhaps that woman is the next Olympic skier, or mountaineer, or Colorado legislator.</p> <p>We would all say we are against oppression, when powerful people snuff out the voices and lives of powerless people, but what is this bill but oppression? Abortion victims and unwanted children are a marginalized people group who need us all to be their voices so that they can redeem their stories here in Colorado- for good.</p> <p>This bill also does not address the need for health care for infants born alive after an abortion procedure. Ohio passed legislation in December for born alive infants, and I would hope that in the future, Colorado would pass similar legislation that provides health care for these infants.</p> <p>I urge you to vote no on RHEA. Thank you for this opportunity.</p>
<p>Shannon McCrary Against Self</p>	<p>Please do not pass a Bill that would make murder legal for convenience. This takes abortion to a whole new level and as someone who works at a pregnancy center, I have seen the power of lives changed when people are educated on what abortion actually is and that a baby's heart starts beating 18 days after conception. You have a heartbeat, do not make it accessible to take away someone else's. This would not improve Colorado. Instead, it would make our state a catalyst for harm and selfishness.</p>
<p>Amanda Borchers Against Self</p>	<p>I have been a Colorado citizen my whole life. As a Colorado woman and mother, I am deeply concerned over HB22-1279 and voice my strong opposition to this bill. The extremism of this bill is alarming.</p> <p>The bill states that abortion is a "fundamental right" and that "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state." It would also prohibit the state and local public entities from "depriving... an individual of the individual's right to act during the individual's own pregnancy based on... the pregnancy's outcomes." Implications of this language include allowing infanticide, as it specifically states individuals have a "fundamental right to make decisions about reproductive healthcare," which includes "postnatal and delivery care." Let's not let Colorado become a place where it's okay to kill newborns.</p> <p>It would cement into law that unborn children have no "independent or derivative rights," which doesn't just mean the right to not be killed in the womb, but the right to not be tortured or disfigured. People could consume medications or other toxins to intentionally bring about birth defects. People could also abort their children for being the wrong sex,</p>

	<p>having Down's Syndrome, or being the wrong race. Unborn children would have zero protection from any discriminatory practices, which are common. They could also be aborted by any means, including the brutal and painful method of partial-birth abortion.</p> <p>Also troubling to me is the language about the need to commit abortions on people of color, which harkens back to the racism of Margaret Sanger and other eugenicists who promoted abortion as a means of controlling what they deemed as less desirable populations.</p> <p>And it would do all this without helping women at all. Nothing in this bill addresses the root problems which drive women to consider abortion.</p> <p>This is not what progress looks like. Colorado is one of only seven (7) states which allows abortion up to birth. The United States is one of only seven (7) countries which allows abortions this late, along with China and North Korea. We are not in good company.</p> <p>The language of this bill is extreme, racist, sexist, does NOT represent the values of the people of Colorado, and would not stand to benefit the people it claims to. Please, do everything you can to oppose this bill.</p>
<p>Amanda Borchers Against Self</p>	<p>I am a life-long Coloradan, a wife, and young mother to 3 children. I testify against HB22-1279 to give voice to the thousands of Coloradans who do not support the killing of children in the womb, who stand for the most vulnerable, who speak for the voiceless. We've heard so much about the right to make choices surrounding abortion as fundamental. If we don't have the right to life, first, we have no rights at all. Bodily autonomy necessarily flows from the more fundamental right to life. I am horrified by the language contained in this bill which strips unborn children of all rights. We've heard previous testimony from those in favor of this bill that a fetus is not a person. We've heard other testimony that it is not the place of the state to determine whether or not a fetus is a person with rights. This bill, though, does just that: it codifies into law that a fetus is not a person with rights. Since the personhood of a fetus is debated, we should err on the side of caution, respecting the most fundamental and basic right to life of this person, and not recklessly destroying the most vulnerable people. We've also heard a great deal of testimony about the right of people to choose whether or not to become parents. A pregnant woman is a mother already to the person in her womb.</p> <p>My own story of becoming a mother begins on my 22nd birthday, when I was shocked to see two pink lines on a pregnancy test. I didn't learn that day that I was going to be a mom, but that I was a mom to someone very small, someone unplanned by me and my husband, but still someone very loved. I remained a mom six days later, when I lost that</p>

	<p>child in a miscarriage. Language like that contained in this bill, which strips unborn children of their personhood and their rights, is deeply offensive to women like me because in declaring that a fetus is not a person, it also strips pregnant women and women who have suffered miscarriage of their motherhood.</p> <p>The bill also states that individuals have the right to make decisions about reproductive healthcare, which is defined as including postnatal and delivery care. The language of this bill does not preclude infanticide. I hope that though many disagree that unborn people shouldn't be killed, we can still agree killing newborns is wrong. This bill is dangerous and extreme. I beg the committee to vote no on HB22-1279.</p>
<p>Lori B Against Self</p>	<p>I had an abortion in the 80's. Promised "abortion will be quick &amp; easy, go back to my normal life in a week almost all women are relieved afterward". I'm still waiting for "normal life" &amp; "relief". Immediately felt "empty", The nightmare of being on the table, crying in pain, hearing sounds &amp; feeling my baby being removed still haunts me! Had no choice but repress it &amp; go on though. College, Army, careers. Fought severe depression, panic, &amp; anger, non of which I had prior to the abortion. I was 18 &amp; ok with being pregnant. But my boyfriend said he'd leave if I kept baby &amp; parents would kick me out of house. I told family doctor &amp; abortion counselor I didn't want an abortion- just felt I had no other choice. DID THEY SAY, WE'LLHELP YOU KEEP YOUR BABY? No! " Wait a few days, think about it then decide"? NO! They said "it's normal to be afraid but this is for the best. In a hurry, gave me a sedative &amp; 2 hours later my baby was gone. THEY DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME-OR THEY DIDN'T CARE! "You can have children later". WRONG. I'm 59, never able to have more children!!! Did they explain fetal development? NO. "It's just tissue, not a baby". FOUND OUT 20 years later that was NOT TRUE!!! I trusted my family Dr! IT TRULY WAS AN UNINFORMED DECISION &amp; I gave "UNIFORMED CONSENT"!!! With internet I finally saw photos &amp; videos of what my baby WOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE- fingers, toes, a FACE, MOVING! SUDDENLY I FELT LIKE I WAS HIT BY A FREIGHT TRAIN of SHOCK, DISBELIEF, &amp; OVERWHELMING GRIEF! For months I felt at the bottom of a dark pit of despair. ANGER AROSE toward clinic &amp; doctor who mislead me! Stayed in apt, repeating "I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry" to my baby. No motivation to live. Lost my job, lost all relationships since then. I've had success &amp; fleeting moments I could smile but seeing babies &amp; children reminds me what I gave away and can be unbearable. IF I COULD GO BACK in time I would stand up for MYSELF &amp; MY BABY - protect US BOTH!</p> <p>I'm not alone. In a support group of 1,600 women with the same sorrow. They aren't in public bragging. Girls 16 to women in 70's. EVERY DAY more women find our group, asking "WHY DIDN'T THEY WARN ME I WOULD HURT SO MUCH? The least abortion "providers" can do is tell</p>

	<p>women the COMPLETE TRUTH, FROM ALL ANGLES. Tell them about women like me! If they have doubts HELP THEM! If you really care about women as you say, STOP PUTTING DOWN PREGNANCY CENTERS. Give them accurate information &amp; DON'T SAY IT'S QUICK &amp; EASY!</p>
<p>Douglas Currey Against Self</p>	<p>My wife and family feel you are seriously devaluing human life with this terrible bill. At any stage of pregnancy?? Please stop this.</p>
<p>Lynn Taylor Against Self</p>	<p>Please Vote NO on HB 1279.</p> <p>This bill defines abortion as “any medical procedure, instrument, agent, or drug used to terminate the pregnancy of an individual” And states that “a public entity shall not: Deny, restrict, interfere with, or discriminate against an individual’s fundamental right ... to have an abortion.</p> <p>Today, babies born at 24 weeks have a 68% chance of survival. Babies born at 26 weeks, end of the second trimester, have an 86% chance of survival.</p> <p>This bill essentially legalizes infanticide.</p> <p>Reading from the American Journal of Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology about abortions at the end of the second trimester ...</p> <p>“Dilation and evacuation involves preoperative dilation of the cervix 1 or more days before operative evaluation. With the use of forceps, fetal parts are grasped, and the fetus and placenta are disarticulated as they are removed.”</p> <p>Sanitized, scientific words to say that the cervix is opened and the baby is cut and torn apart during removal from the womb.</p> <p>This bill legalizes abortion until the moment of birth. Again quoting:</p> <p>“A variant of dilation and evacuation can be performed when sufficient cervical dilation is present. In these cases, the fetus is delivered via breech extraction. In most cases, after delivery of the body, the fetal head will become lodged in the cervix, and cranial decompression with suction must be performed to complete the delivery.”</p> <p>Sanitized, scientific words to say that the baby is partially delivered, the base of the skull is cut, the brain is suctioned out which causes the skull to collapse and the baby pulled out.</p>

	<p>Understand what you are voting for.</p> <p>Vote No on HB 1279.</p>
<p>Andrew Ulferts Against Self</p>	<p>Members of Colorado Congress, elected by the People, for the People,</p> <p>Nobody wants this. We did not vote for this. We do not pay you to murder human beings, nor to define what a human being is, nor whether murder is acceptable if you redefine what a life is. You have woken a sleeping giant. We the People are on the move. We unfortunately were not paying attention to what you were doing up there behind closed doors. This radical, evil agenda will not succeed. Stop this in its tracks. This state is hard to recognize today. I cannot believe such monsters exist that allow such destruction. Fix this now. I will make sure everyone hears about this and that you will not be sneaking this by us without a spotlight and a megaphone in your faces for your few remaining days in office. I hate what you've done to my state. Praise Jesus, HALLELUJAH! You evil monsters.</p>
<p>Leslie Gerard Against Self</p>	<p>Please vote NO on HB 22-1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act. This bill would allow abortions at any stage of development, for any reason, including gender, race or disability. It's a scientific fact that life begins at conception. This bill would rob a fetus of the right to life and declare that he or she is not a person which is simply not true. Sadly, minorities would suffer the most by this bill as a large percentage of abortions are performed on women of color. Our time and efforts would be better spent supporting women who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy; and, we have the resources in Colorado to do that. Again, I strongly urge you to please vote NO on HB 22-1279.</p>
<p>Julianna Dotten Against Self</p>	<p>I am writing on behalf of HB22-1279. I am concerned about the radical and callous nature of this bill and strongly urge all committee members to vote no.</p> <p>If you heard a case in which a young, single mother who found herself unable to provide for her 3-year-old and thus decided to take the toddler into the yard and end its life, what would you say? Clearly, Colorado law would see this as a violation of life.</p> <p>But would it be any different if the child was one year old? six months old? one day old? A few days from birth? In other words, since an unborn child has a heartbeat and can feel pain, it is equally wrong to end its life as it would be to end a toddler's life. Pre-born babies deserve to be protected under law, not sentenced to death by it.</p> <p>I equally love women, and have great compassion for the difficult situations many find themselves in, many of which they have not caused. For this reason, I support organizations that help these women, and even help them find loving homes for their babies without having to end their lives.</p>

	<p>Please vote no on HB22-1279.</p>
<p>Anne Alexander Against Self</p>	<p>What a dark time for Colorado! To allow the destruction of beautiful babies in the name of health. To say unborn have no rights, treating them like they aren't human. Never giving these children their chance to live and fulfill their dreams. Why can't we celebrate life, instead of death. Colorado started this culture of death, with the 1st legal abortion and abortion center. Now, our state leaders are presenting this outrageous, too extreme abortion bill. Allowing abortion at anytime, even up to birth. The majority of Americans believe it's wrong to have an abortion after the first trimester. Not allowing parent notification when your young daughter is killing a life and might have a potential of losing her own life. Why don't we protect and love all human life! Let's have a culture of life in Colorado. I, myself had an unwanted pregnancy at the age of 38. People close to me and even a terrible doctor suggested I have an abortion. Fortunately, I never thought about it once. I knew this was a precious little human whom God loved and created so special. At 2 1/2 months, I had an ultrasound. It was so amazing. While watching the ultrasound, my little girl did a flip -- she started out very athletic! Then exercise done, they took a picture that I have to this day, of her lying on her back...resting, chilling out with her legs crossed at her knees and sucking her thumb. Definitely a real human who had real rights and deserved to be protected and cared for. I was so full of awe and wonder, that this little life was inside me. Of course, my life plans were changed, but all for the good. This little girl has been the most amazing athlete, scholar, military Major, and now works with neurosurgeons. We treat animals, criminals and war criminals more humanly than these babies. At least, we give them a pain free death. But not these innocent, defenseless boys and girls. Without any painkiller or anesthetics, the butchering, savagery begins or pulling off their arms and legs and killing in the most cruel ways. Or they use salt and toxins to burn their skin and bodies till they die. Wow, we have never killed humans like this. This bill is the most horrendous, murdering abortion bill that has ever been created. God have mercy on the 3 that created it. If you so callously vote yes for it, God will hold you accountable for every boy and girl whose blood cries out to Him.</p>
<p>Alyssa Dwire Against Self</p>	<p>In this country we stand for having the right to LIFE. This bill allows people to discriminate against a person's sex, race, and disabilities. Every person deserves a chance at life even if their parent doesn't want them.</p> <p>On another note, if we believe minors are not old enough to join the military, vote, or live on their own, then they certainly aren't old enough to make a decision about another person's life. Parents should ALWAYS be notified when their child goes through a medical procedure, including an abortion.</p>

	<p>I believe that Life begins at conception and therefor a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus should have independent or derivative rights under the laws" of Colorado;</p> <p>If we claim to be "For Women", the we should have regulations on abortion based on concerns regarding the health of the woman or baby.</p> <p>This Bill is irresponsible and inhumane.</p>
<p>John Haddad Against Self</p>	<p>I am very much opposed to this bill and want my voice heard. You are elected to represent the will of the people, not just make your own decisions.</p> <p>So please do your job and vote no against this bill. Your hands are on this bill and just like everything we do, we will be held accountable by the Lord for our actions and decisions.</p>
<p>Susan Krems For Self</p>	<p>Please vote HB22-1279 forward + pass it. I have two nieces, both were pregnant with planned pregnancies + very much wanted children. Unfortunately, both were told in their fifth month that their fetus had severe physical problems, would either not be born alive or would die shortly after birth. Both were advised to stop their pregnancies for the sake of their own health. Continuing the pregnancy meant risking their own health.</p> <p>Thankfully, both lived in states where safe abortions were available. Terminating a pregnancy is emotionally heartbreaking, and creates severe, difficult hormonal changes. Needing to travel to another state for their abortions would have increased their physical + emotional pain. HB22-1279 guarantees safe abortions for all. Nature is not perfect, people are not perfect. We should show compassion to anyone who needs an abortion, for any reason.</p> <p>I am old enough to remember when abortion was illegal. If you have not seen the pain of someone whose mother died in an illegal abortion, leaving a family with 3 children motherless, as I have, you do not understand the utter necessity of keeping abortion safe. If you have not met parents who lost their only child in an illegal abortion, you do not understand the cruelty of prohibiting abortions. Please support HB22-1279.</p>
<p>Tamara Carey Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you, dear people of this committee, for the opportunity to submit a written testimony. My name is Tamara Carey, and I am here not to support HB22-1279</p> <p>I wrote this song so that our children would know Who made them, and we wanted to sing it for you, so that you would know, as well. It is from Psalm 139. The "He" referenced in the song is God.</p> <p>For He formed Your inward parts. He knitted you together in Your mother's womb.</p>

	<p>Oh we, we praise Him, we praise Him for you are fearfully and wonderfully made.                  Wonderful are His works. Our souls know it very well.                  Your frame was not hidden from Him when you were being made.                  In secret, intricately woven, in the depths of the earth.                  His eyes saw your unformed substance; His eyes see you know.                  In His book were written - every one of them - the days that were formed for you, when as yet there were none of them.</p> <p>Thank you for listening. We are praying for you.</p>
<p>Leonard Micek                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>I am concerned about the blatant dishonesty and deception in the statement of this bill...</p> <p>To call abortion health care is akin to defining destructive rioting or lethal conflict as peaceful protest or to defining forcible rape as a form of love. Health is defined as the condition of being sound in body, mind, or spirit and is associated with freedom from physical disease or pain. Therefore, reproductive health care is about helping men and women ensure that their reproductive organs are functioning properly; it should not have the objective of incapacitating them. For this reason, abortion (and some other practices stated in the bill) should honestly not be defined as reproductive health care. Simply calling abortion health care does not make it so.</p> <p>Furthermore, fundamental rights are those serving as a basis supporting existence, and the right to live is clearly essential for the existence of the individual. Therefore, abortion which has the objective of terminating a human life cannot be a fundamental right (as stated in the bill.) It is scientifically verifiable that the preborn baby regardless of embryonic state is a unique human individual. Why should it be denied the fundamental right to live? For the preservation of peace, health and safety, as well as civility, the protection of the preborn is an essential responsibility of our society.</p> <p>The title of this bill could be "The Right to Terminate Pre-born Human Life." You lawmakers who support this bill should be honest with yourselves and realize that insisting on this right under the definition of health care is deceptive and dishonest. Furthermore, codifying abortion as a fundamental right, which goes against scientific evidence and the foundational principles of our country, can only lead to further degradation and decline of our culture's respect for human life in general.</p>
<p>Christopher Carey                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>Thank you Committee members for the opportunity to testify.</p> <p>My name is Christopher Carey - I am a father of four children. Three of whom are with me today. Our fourth child died in the womb at 13 weeks old. I held this dead child in my hand. He or she had two eyes, a nose, two arms, two hands, and five fingers on each hand. The child had two legs, two feet, and five toes on each foot. The child was small and had never said a word, but was a human being. When my three other</p>

	<p>children were in the womb, they were alive. They responded to the touch of my hand on my wife's womb. It wasn't just pressure they responded to - other people would put their hand on my wife's tummy, but they knew when the hand was mine. They responded to my voice. Not just any voice, but my voice. They were alive and they deserved dignity, protection, and love because they were human beings - made by God in His image and likeness.</p> <p>We use words that soothe our conscience. We are all inclined to do that. If I spend 30 minutes during my job surfing the internet, I might say that I got distracted for a while, instead of saying clearly that I stole from my employer. We don't like to recognize our wrongdoing and call it what it is. We use words like fetus, or abortion, or partial-birth abortion because our consciences feel better than using more descriptive words. We don't talk about how doctors drive scissors into the brain of a child, or use forceps to dismember a baby, or use a vacuum attached to a vagina to suck out a living person because those terms make us shudder, and strike something in us that is uncomfortable to ignore. Dear representatives, please do not ignore what is plain. Humans in the womb are children made in God's image and likeness. And killing them is murder.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Peter Dickson Against Self</p>	<p>I am opposed to Bill "HB22-1279". My heart breaks for this nation and the loss of life through abortion. There is no amount of money that can reconcile the loss of life and emotional damage occurring in this country. The devaluation of life since Roe v. Wade has contributed directly to this nation's decline. There is division in our society, increase murder rate, mass shootings and suicides. Life is not valued and protected. Our morality withers away.</p> <p>Abortion comes with a price. This bill will inflict lifelong emotional pain on mothers; mental depression and mental illness could occur. Guilt and shame will plague and haunt these mother's lives.</p>
<p>Dianna Doyle Against Self</p>	<p>When I was about 10 years old, my parents let me know that my dad wanted me aborted and my mom chose life. I am a 54-year-old woman of 3 amazing adults and have been married for 30 years this year! I know I have had an impact on many lives through the grace of God. Please do not take the life of anyone, born or unborn. You never know the plans God has for that person and the contribution they can make. Please vote "NO" on this bill.</p>
<p>Elizabeth DeLand Against Self</p>	<p>I know personally the long lasting pain of abortion. I was pressured into an abortion in Colorado in 1971 when I was just 17 years old by a well meaning parent. Since that event I have met countless women also pressured into an abortion by parents and boyfriends and husbands. For many years I suffered the effects of that abortion: Nightmares, secrecy, regret, profound grief that i suffered in silence, and loss of self-esteem.</p>

	<p>When you pass laws encouraging abortion on demand for any and every reason, you put women and children in a terrible predicament of pressure from those around her. Some have any been murdered when they stood up to this outside pressure. And that does not even cover the terrible consequences for men and women emotionally.</p> <p>Abortion is a brutal and unholy affair for all involved and I don't want to pay for it with my tax dollars or make it more accessible. Please don't do this.</p>
<p>Julie Trujillo Against Self</p>	<p>Written Testimony Against Reproductive Health Equity Act 3/9/2022</p> <p>Life is life, no matter the location or circumstance. A person who lives in a palace is no more important than a person living in a humble home. We as a country believe in equality for all and have fought fiercely against maltreatment of a person because of their skin color, age, sexual orientation, gender, religion and more. Why is location something that could determine whether a living being deserves honor and respect? A viable baby in utero that can survive out of the womb is most definitely alive and deserving of the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness we all enjoy in this country. The woman carrying the child may struggle with this decision, but especially past 24 weeks, can be guided gently to at the very least, let the living baby continue to live outside her uterus and be adopted. There are many people struggling with infertility or for whatever reason not able to bear children – let this be their joy and happiness. The science cannot be argued with, life is life. If we are a society that values life, we cannot argue this either and must therefore protect this life.</p> <p>Women need respect. Women need honor. The secrecy and pain of abortion does not respect or honor. I have not met one woman who is genuinely happy about having an abortion, but have only seen women with hurt, regret, lower self-esteem, and depression. There is loss of life and a mother and her partner feel it, mourn it, and are changed forever. Services to help understand and work through this loss should be promoted and brought into the open. Respect and honor are increasing services to help walk with and support women. Protect and honor the lives of women.</p> <p>Respectfully, Julie Grace Trujillo – spouse, mother, physician assistant and Coloradoan</p>
<p>Donald Rogers Against Self</p>	<p>To the Colorado House Health and Insurance Committee Members</p> <p>Bill HB22-1279 states in Section one that it finds: Access to abortion and reproductive health care is currently under attack.</p> <p>Abortion and reproductive health care are two entirely different things.</p>

	<p>Abortion helps no one. In fact, it KILLS the baby and WOUNDS the mother!! It is also quite racist. It specifically targets minorities and poor socioeconomic women. Wikipedia states African Americans make up 14% of the U.S. population and yet they account for 38% of all abortions performed in the U.S. Hispanic's make up 18.5 % of the U.S. population and yet 21% of all abortions are performed on Hispanic's. The list goes on. Very Racist.</p> <p>Margret Sanger, who was a Eugenicist, is celebrated annually by Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortions in America. Her "Negro Project" is indeed, quite racist but abortions providers still celebrate her life. Colorado is not a Racist State!! We should not promote racist ideas.</p> <p>Reproductive Health Care on the other hand is quite different than abortion. There are numerous facilities in Colorado that help with pregnancy planning, and pre and post natal care by providing financial and medical help to pregnant women. Many of these institutions are supported by donation only. Imagine how wonderful our State would be if we took the Tax Payer money that the State and Federal Government paid to Abortion Clinics to end an innocent baby's life and instead gave that money to true Reproductive Health Care for our Colorado Women.</p> <p>Maybe you should scrap this piece of GARBAGE bill and propose one that would do just that.</p> <p>Please Protect the BABIES IN THE WOMB. Please vote "NO" on HB22-1279.</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Donald Rogers</p>
<p>Erin Meschke Against Self</p>	<p>Thank you, Madame Chair and committee members. My name is Erin Meschke and I live in Boulder. I oppose HB 1279 and am hoping to testify remotely but have a meeting I can't reschedule so am submitting written comment to make sure my voice is heard.</p> <p>As much as I believe we should have freedom to control what we are required to put into our bodies, that bodily autonomy must be kept sacred, as a woman who has been pregnant four times I hold a different position about pregnancy and the presence of another life within that body. I had the privilege to be able to plan when I wanted to get pregnant with each of my children...none were accidental or unexpected. I was married, recently graduated from college, and we were excited to start a family. There was a time in my past when unwise, reckless decisions with my sexuality could have created a much</p>

	<p>different pregnancy situation, one with guilt, fear, and uncertainty. Nonetheless, even in my irresponsible years, I wouldn't have been able to abort an unplanned pregnancy. Actions have consequences. The more we allow people to sweep natural consequences under the rug, the more we cripple our society. Our sexuality and reproductive abilities are amazing and mysterious; we must hold them with great reverence and responsibility. Every life, from the moment of conception, is precious and should be protected by all people.</p> <p>Only 3.5% of abortions are done for hard cases; rape/incest: 0.39%, physical threat to mother: 1.14%, mental health of mother: 1.28%, or birth defects: 0.69%. The other 96.5% of abortions are done for social/economic reasons. This is irresponsible. As stated in the bill, I believe that a woman has the right to take or deny birth control but disagree that if she does not do this responsibly she should have the right to end the life created within her.</p> <p>I think this bill is an incredibly dangerous open door to all manner of harms to children. The threat of the current Supreme Court case doesn't warrant creating a law so wide and permissive for Colorado. Under the guise of complete freedom, a baby may be aborted, seemingly, up to the moment of his/her birth because the woman chooses not to take the last step into motherhood. This is a dangerous precedent I believe could lead to euthanizing children up to whatever age they are deemed "fully human" or capable of survival. Our civilized democracy must not be allowed to devolve into this practice. We must protect all of life by opposing HB22-1279. Thank you.</p>
<p>Jennifer Hehn Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Representatives,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to testify AGAINST the Reproductive Health Equity Act. This extreme pro-abortion bill will not provide equal healthcare for women who find themselves in a pregnancy crisis. This bill will ensure that the end result of a crisis pregnancy is abortion. This will destroy a woman's life, in addition, and most importantly, will end the life of an innocent human being in the womb. This bill will not make Colorado a better state to live, but rather will mark our state with the blood of human innocents. Please vote AGAINST this bill. We can do better in Colorado for women and children.</p>
<p>Amanda Glassburn Against Self</p>	<p>This new law would escalate abortions up-to-the moment of birth for any reason, even during partial birth to perform infanticide which is an act of murder.</p> <p>Abortion can take place based on discrimination of sex, race, or children with disabilities such as Down Syndrome; which goes against what America has continued to stand for: Freedom, and what we are currently still fighting for in our society: which we can see CLEARLY in the LGBTQ community.</p>

	<p>This new law would remove the requirement that parents of minors be notified if their child receives an abortion; removing the parent out of their role completely and allowing underdeveloped adolescent to make life altering decisions.</p> <p>This would Enshrine in law that “a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws” of Colorado; removing basic human rights of a life; being.</p>
<p>Lora Larson Against Self</p>	<p>What are you, you the so-called lawmakers, Froelich, Esgar and Gonzales, you who are introducing this evil and unlawful Bill, thinking? This Bill is going against GOD and His statutes and judgments. I fear for you and your leading us down the wrong path. It will not go well with you or us citizens of Colorado if you don't repent from this wickedness done to the innocent babies in the womb!</p> <p>Did GOD who created all things die and in His place make you GOD? No! He is eternal and you are mortal!</p> <p>In Ezekiel chapter 18 GOD states that "The soul who sins shall die...But if a wicked person turns from all their sins which they have committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. (Would you agree that abortion is killing innocent babies in the womb and therefore is unlawful and wicked?)</p> <p>"Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "and not that he should turn from his wicked ways and live? (Please turn away this destructive Bill right now or you will be held responsible to GOD)</p> <p>Please vote NO on this HB22-1279! CHOOSE LIFE! Protect and defend all LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS...just like you swore an oath to do. It's not complicated, let GOD be God! Choose right now the right way, choose life for ALL people!</p>
<p>Kay Baker Against Self</p>	<p>Every individual, I believe, does have a right to use or refuse contraception, BUT, I DO NOT believe every pregnant individual has a fundamental right to have an abortion! I believe EVERY pregnant individual has the fundamental right to continue their pregnancy AND to give birth! A fertilized egg, embryo, and/or a fetus are now LIVING and very much should have independent and/or derivative rights, just</p>

	<p>as living people do! Preborn babies still have RIGHTS, as we do as American citizens! THEY ARE STILL BABIES!!! This is the most radical and absurd abortion Bill in the United States! This bill is way too EXTREME, HEARTLESS, and UNCARING for Colorado! I am making a stand for LIFE, and HOPE YOU DO AS WELL! Every person, born or preborn, has RIGHTS and DESERVES TO LIVE! Preborn babies deserve to be protected under the law, NOT SENTENCED TO DEATH BY IT!!! I URGE A NO VOTE BY ALL, and much consideration by all you who are living and breathing and NOT ABORTED! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!</p>
<p>Craig Baumgartner Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Legislators,</p> <p>I understand that many people believe in a woman's right to choose. I just believe that there should be some representation of the unborn child's choice. We can debate when life begins, when a fetus becomes viable, etc. But, I believe that, at some point, the unborn child should have rights, and would very likely choose to live. When does an unborn child deserve representation? If they are allowed representation in some circumstances, why not all circumstances?</p> <p>Thank you for reading this testimony. I hope and pray that you will make the best decision, in the best interests, of all of the people of Colorado. God bless you.</p>
<p>Jamille Moody Against Self</p>	<p>Equality- The first black woman president, the first gay president, the person to create a cure for cancer, the person to create a cure for Alzheimer's, the first person to walk on Mars- what could've been we'll never know- their life was taken from them before they even had the chance to breathe air into their lungs.</p> <p>We talk about speaking up for the marginalized, the weak, standing up for the victims of crimes. Yet with that same mouth we are silencing, oppressing and ultimately killing those in our society that are truly- to the highest degree victims of the most heinous crimes. Murder without trial, guilty only in having existed. Not by their own choice, but by the actions and choices of another, these mute humans are paying the ultimate price- their lives- for someone else's actions, choices. Discarded with last nights trash because they would be inconvenient for whatever reason.</p> <p>Where's the equality for these people? Where's the equal rights for every person that has been murdered in the womb? How can you possibly say abortion isn't murder because of the location- a womb versus an incubator? Because you can actually SEE the baby then it counts as a person?</p> <p>Delivering the baby's body out of the womb but leaving their head undelivered to then literally KILL them? What kind of truly barbaric</p>

	<p>ritual is this?? It's absolutely illogical and insanity- open your eyes and SEE what is going on.</p> <p>I am speaking up for the millions of silenced persons from every race- every background- every sex- every disability- STOP KILLING US!!! VOTE NO on the legalization of murder by abortion touted as "equal" rights. This is hypocrisy at its best.</p> <p>Please VOTE NO on HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA) . Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jamille Moody</p> <p>5060 Wagon Master Dr Colorado Springs, CO 80917 carter.jamille@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Amy Hayes Against Self</p>	<p>As a parent I have a right to be notified if my child is getting an invasive procedure with potential life threatening complications. The schools have to have my permission to give her a Tylenol yet abortion clinics can provide an abortion for her. That doesn't even make common sense and can end up doing much damage to young people. Partial birth abortion is inhumane and murder. Would we do that to an animal just because the animal is not wanted? People would be up in arms if we did that to an animal but somehow it's okay to do that to a human being. Babies in the womb are human beings just like puppies in the womb of a dog are baby dogs. Just because they are younger in age and are growing inside another's body doesn't change their DNA. Babies don't change from being non human to human magically once they are born, so they should have rights. They are among the most vulnerable of our population and can't speak for themselves so we must speak up on their behalf to protect them. Banning common sense health restrictions like requiring women to consult with a doctor before taking abortion pills is harmful to the very women this bill claims to protect. What could possibly be a good reason for a woman not to talk with a doctor first unless we don't care about the woman and her health and just want to promote abortion so abortion providers can make more money without having any responsibility for what could go wrong if a young girl can get these medications without consulting anyone about the risks involved. Banning options to prevent abortions based on sex, race or disability is barbaric. It's discriminating against human beings based on their race, sex or disability. How can we be so calloused and cruel and racist? Please do not pass this bill. I believe blood will be on your hands if you do. Sincerely, Amy Hayes</p>
<p>Samantha Alvarado Against</p>	<p>This bill is horrific. It removes parental rights to be notified of a daughter's abortion - a procedure that has potential life threatening</p>

<p>Self</p>	<p>complications. A school needs permission to give children over the counter medications, yet abortion clinics can provide abortions to minors with no consent. Now, this bill would even remove any knowledge that the procedure has even occurred, so a parent will have no idea how to help their child should sepsis, a punctured intestine/bowel, or extreme blood loss occur. Additionally, emotional and psychological impacts can occur, and a parent will have no idea the source of such complications or how to address them. Furthermore, partial birth abortion is universally known as murder of an infant. The baby is ready for birth, yet this bill would allow a medical provider to kill it as it is born? Whomever crafted this bill is highly irresponsible.</p>
<p>Jennice Casady Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Health &amp; Insurance Committee Representatives,</p> <p>My name is Jennice Casady, and I am a native of Colorado. I am writing you today because you will be voting on the HB22-1279 bill, called Reproductive Health Equity Act. This bill hurts women, and unborn babies.</p> <p>This bill will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ban the state of Colorado from providing any rights to unborn babies</li> <li>• Bans parental notification or age restrictions on abortion</li> <li>• Invalidates all existing and future local abortion restrictions</li> <li>• Bans common-sense health restrictions on abortion, like requiring women to consult with a doctor before taking abortion pills</li> <li>• Bans options to prevent abortions based on sex, race, or disability</li> </ul> <p>This bill happily seeks to make Colorado a travel destination for the killing of unborn babies with no restrictions whatsoever.</p> <p>All the women in my life that I know that have had abortions, regret them, especially when they have children later, and realize through the ultra sounds that their baby has a heartbeat, eyes, fingers, sucks it's thumb, does flips, moves around, and can hear his/her mother talking, and that's why babies recognize their mother's voice when they are born. Each unborn baby has it's own unique DNA, and blood type that is separate from the mother.</p> <p>This bill undermines what health truly is. Health is supposed to protect, and to make one well, and to fully inform the women of all her choices for herself and her unborn baby, and this bill states that as interference. The first part of the Hippocratic Oath for medical students is, "do no harm". This bill blocks the rights of doctors to "do no harm" because they will be forced to do the will of the state because they won't be able to deny an abortion, if this bill passes.</p>

	<p>Please vote No on bill HB22-1279 for the sake of women, unborn babies, and doctors. All life matters including yours. "A life is a life no matter how small", a quote from Dr. Seuss.</p> <p>Thank you for listening, Jennice Casady, Brighton CO 80602</p>
<p>Apryl Sweat Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Representatives of the House Health &amp; Insurance Committee,</p> <p>Please vote NO on HB22-1279. The Reproductive Health Equity Act is a direct assault on families and children. The people of Colorado and the United States of America have the right to life. Codifying that an unborn child has no rights simply because it is dependent on its mother for survival is exactly the same as codifying that a day-old child has no rights because it is dependent on its mother. Our world already discriminates against people who are 'less-than' because of their abilities or non-abilities. There is nothing in this bill that provides equity. It blatantly defines a subgroup of people who are 'less than' and declares them unworthy to live or have any rights.</p> <p>Our state and communities need more people who are respectful, caring, and compassionate. If passed into law, HB22-1279 would send a strong message to the good people of Colorado that they should NOT respect themselves, they should NOT respect babies or children, and they should NOT respect parents or authority. Our people already suffer from disrespect and hate. This bill exacerbates the feelings of hate towards a group of people who certain individuals consider 'less-than'.</p> <p>The fiscal analysis of this proposed bill is also a complete lie and shows a lack of knowledge on the subject matter. This bill would inflate the need for legal counsel to defend the state of Colorado from the legal ramifications of defending and enforcing this bill. Fewer doctors and nurses would want to practice in the state of Colorado because their consciences and personal values would be violated by forcing them to become murderers. This would inflate the costs of our health system, which is already terrible. Good doctors and nurses in the state of Colorado do not want to accept Medicaid because it does not cover the costs associated with medical care. The people of Colorado cannot afford another systematic price increase on health care.</p> <p>Please vote NO on HB22-1279.</p> <p>With Respect, Apryl Sweat Mother and Defender of Innocence</p>
<p>Diana Bara Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Representatives:</p> <p>I am opposed to HB22-1279 the Reproductive Health Equity Act, and it should not make it to the house floor. It is the most extreme bill</p>

	<p>regarding abortion and far exceeds Roe vs Wade. This bill is an insult to women and their right to choose. We do not want or need a law that permits infanticide. This bill will legalize the killing of a human being in the womb at any stage of pregnancy, even until the moment of birth, and make it into a state law. This is not what Coloradans want. We value the life of our unborn children who are innocent and cannot speak for themselves. If passed this bill will deny the rights of human beings in the womb. Yes a human being in utero is still a human, not a dog or a cat, at any stage of growth from a fertilized egg, to an embryo, fetus and birth. A human being in utero has the right to live and needs you to protect them not terminate them. Kill the bill not our children.</p>
<p>Heidi Ganahl Against Self</p>	<p>This legislation is not what the people of Colorado want. HB 1279 is the most extreme abortion law in the nation. Elected officials bear the responsibility of speaking for the wants and needs of their constituents, not forcing laws without the will of the people. This bill is not in line with the values of most Coloradans. Allowing abortions seconds before a child is born, and seconds after he or she takes their first breath is unimaginable. Please listen to all of Colorado and not simply those in your close circles that echo your extreme positions on this heartbreaking issue. I ask that you get back to solving the rising crime problem in our state, reducing the soaring cost of living from over-regulation and policies that make inflation worse, and making our education system better for our struggling children.</p>
<p>Marilyn Hughes For Self</p>	<p>HB22-1279. Reproductive Health Equity Act Health &amp; Insurance 1:30 pm   HCR 0112</p> <p>Dear Committee Members, My name is Marilyn Hughes and I am representing myself. I am urging you to vote yes on HB22-1279. This bill is long overdue in our state. Colorado women deserve to have control over their bodies. This bill will provide that. After 50 years of not having to worry whether needed medical help including abortion services was available there is real concern that the supreme court will overturn Roe v Wade. Not having our state's clear protection for reproductive rights is a danger for women and their families. The bill declares that every individual has a fundamental right to use or refuse contraception; every pregnant individual has a fundamental right to continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion; and a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state. Women deserve to have control over their own bodies. We are not chattel. The wave of anti-abortion legislation across our country is troubling and HB22-1279 will protect Colorado women. The point of the bill is choice that should be a woman's prerogative. Again please vote yes on HB22-1279</p>
<p>Becky Moin Against</p>	<p>I do not support this bill! It's against the values and rights of so many. I hope this will be considered!</p>

Self	
Ashley Sandoval Against Self	I am strongly opposed to this bill. To state that humans in the womb have no rights is disgusting and demonic. Abortion is not "reproductive health care" it is taking the life of an innocent child. More disgusting is that this bill would allow infanticide which, by definition, is MURDER. I strongly urge you to vote no against this atrocity.
Joyce Brown Against Self	<p>Good afternoon, Madam Chair Representative Lontine and members of the House Health and Insurance Committee.</p> <p>My name is Joyce Zounis Brown. Though I called the greater Denver area home for 21 years from 1999 to 2020, I now live in South Carolina.</p> <p>As a female born woman, motherhood is something I rejected for eleven years through multiple abortions. I am a person with rights and autonomy to my body. Like many today, I supported abortion. Also, like many today, I now share a different story.</p> <p>How can I be in this mindset, space?</p> <p>Reality is, I committed violence in my womb against my alive children.</p> <p>To say these words and acknowledge this truth, is MOST troubling.</p> <p>As promised, abortion DID NOT empower me. Instead, a decade long wake had followed with harmful traumatic physical complications including mental health issues, high risk pregnancies, premature births, and placenta previa which ended my reproduction health.</p> <p>My children whom I had called problems, hinderances, so easily removed, have been grieved for 30 years.</p> <p>The scale of injustice and suffering in the women of the Colorado and beyond, there are many of us, begins in the womb. Abortion is a crime against humanity, to the preborn child in the womb and to the woman of the womb.</p> <p>Abortion is not an easy answer to a difficult space. It is a freedom less moment that relentlessly haunts you regardless if chosen by circumstance or choice.</p> <p>Wherever you go, there you are.</p> <p>Whether a medical or surgical abortion, one who tells another it is ok, the driver to the abortion appointment, even a legislator who votes to support abortion; one day this truth is known and your soul will sorrow with consequences.</p> <p>Protect Colorado's future and her womb.</p>

	<p>This former abortion patient asks you to OPPOSE HB 1279.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Kristin Ellsworth Against Self</p>	<p>Dear sponsors of this bill, I am shocked that this bill is even being brought forth for a vote. I strongly oppose this extreme abortion bill. This is a radical bill that takes the rights away from parents to know whether their young teen has had an abortion. You are relying on a scared pregnant teenager to make a life altering decision without informing the parents. So wrong on so many levels. There should be a requirement for the parent to know and for the teen and parent to view the ultrasound together. Taking away the voice of the unborn is wrong. Every human should have rights, especially the right to live. Partial birth abortion is infanticide. You are ripping a human from their mother's womb. How is anyone ok whether you are Republican or Democrat in killing a full term baby? This is pure evil. The mother of the baby needs to be informed and she needs to be required to see her baby on an ultrasound and then and only then will she be able to make her decision. I beg you to really search your heart and not pass this extreme bill that will alter lives and humanity. Please do not pass the most extreme abortion bill in the state of Colorado. Sincerely, Kristin Ellsworth</p>
<p>Kelly Lester Against And Then There Were None</p>	<p>My name is Kelly Lester, I had my first at age 15. No one went over the risks or alternatives with me. My informed consent was a piece of paper handed to me that I at 15 was to read and initial. When scared and in crisis, how capable are you of making a life-changing decision from an explanation on a piece of paper? How often do you even read information given that way?  Women are suffering silently from the assault from this procedure.. I've witnessed it firsthand as a patient and as an employee in an abortion facility.  As an employee in the clinic, I understood from my training that once a woman came in, it was our job to convince her to have an abortion. Our employees were not certified or licensed as counselors. I was a bartender before they hired me. Our patients were like me, terrified and looking for help. We did not offer help: we only offered abortion. Not one time did we refer women for adoption give resources for parenting or provide for any of her needs except abortion. We rushed to get them in and out without explaining the risks from the procedure or telling them when their procedure had a dangerous complication. I left the abortion industry because of the consistent number of women who were injured in a procedure and not told what had happened to them. Our record</p>

	<p>keeping was sloppy, medication dispersement reckless.corners were cut and lines blurred for the sake of a profit.</p> <p>Why is it that our poor and minority populations who supposedly need the services that abortion providers give are not given the same standard of care that their counter parts receive.</p> <p>Why do we trust giving all the information to women about all other hard to understand medical decisions like hysterectomy and mastectomy but not the “simple” medical procedure of abortion?</p> <p>We deserve better than this.II live knowing that I was betrayed by the people I trusted to help me, and then I repeated this violation to so many women. Why don’t women deserve the whole truth?</p> <p>Protect women from the ongoing assault of the abortion industry by opposing this bill today.</p>
<p>Rebecca Heath Against Self</p>	<p>To the House Health and Insurance Committee,</p> <p>I am testifying against HB22-1279, and I am asking, as a citizen of Colorado, that you represent those you have been elected to represent. The issue of unrestricted access to abortion at any time, by any means is inexcusable and barbaric. It takes a difficult situation and turns it into a tragedy, victimizing the MOST innocent and the MOST vulnerable among us. There are other means by which to help those with unwanted pregnancies. We do not have to kill an unborn child to find a solution. I am appalled that in the year 2022 we are still fighting for the right to murder our own children. In another state, THIS YEAR, they are trying to pass a bill that allows a woman to kill her baby legally up to 4 weeks post birth! Where is the end?!?! How can we justify ANY murder of ANY infant at ANY stage of development. We must find our moral legs and take a stand.</p> <p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Will legalize the killing of a human being in the womb at any stage of pregnancy, even until the moment of birth, and make it into a state law.</li> <li>*It declares that a woman has a fundamental right to end the life of her baby.</li> <li>*It wants to achieve "racial equity" by targeting "people of color," people with low incomes" as well as individuals in rural areas.</li> <li>*RHEA absolutely disregards the rights of human beings in the womb. Even animals have more protection than our defenseless babies and vulnerable women.</li> <li>*It allows unrestricted abortion access which opens the doors for children/teenagers to have an abortion without parental involvement.</li> <li>*It perpetuates the lie that killing a human being is "Reproductive Health Care."</li> <li>*It doesn't protect women undergoing abortion. RHEA prioritizes abortion over the health and safety of women.</li> </ul>

	<p>*The Bill supports taking the life of preborn babies even if the baby has the "wrong sex," "wrong race," or has disabilities. This bill supports racist, sexist and discriminatory practices.</p> <p>*RHEA does nothing to address the root problems that a woman faces that drives her to consider an abortion.</p> <p>Please support Reason and Reality and vote No on this bill. Remember, this is an extreme bill that legalizes killing babies up to birth, and this is an election year....</p> <p>Sincerely, Rebecca Heath</p>
<p>Cindy Barr Against Self</p>	<p>This bill will be very destructive to families, women, men, and children. Allowing abortion up to birth will have detrimental effects physically and emotionally. We keep saying to trust the science and science has proven over and over again that life begins at conception. We need to be making bills on making adoption more affordable or women having access to pre/postnatal care</p>
<p>Robert Froehlke Against Self</p>	<p>Dear Honorable Committee Members,</p> <p>I appreciate your time in accepting and reading my written testimony. I write to you to express my <b>STRONG</b> opposition to HB22-1279. This proposed legislation would codify abortion in Colorado without restriction. Such legislation would allow abortion at any time during a pregnancy, even up to the due date and time of birth.</p> <p>I am a pediatrician, and during my more than 30 years of practice, I have cared for thousands of babies born prematurely. This extreme legislation would allow for the killing of infants who are fully viable outside of the womb. This is radical, extreme legislation, coming to the edge of legalizing infanticide in Colorado.</p> <p>Further, this radical, extreme legislation would allow abortion for any reason – including aborting due to the sex of the baby, or other genetic characteristics. I have a son with Down Syndrome. He is a joy, and his life has brought joy to all it has touched. Sadly, many babies with Down Syndrome are aborted only because they have Down Syndrome. This extreme, radical legislation would not only codify the aborting of babies with Down Syndrome, but those with any other genetic characteristic, including their sex.</p> <p>Allowing abortions for any reason, at any time, without any restrictions, is extreme and radical. It is tantamount to legalizing genocide. It is legislation that would have Colorado join the ranks of China and North Korea.</p> <p>I respectfully request that you do not support the extreme radical legislation proposed in HB22-1279.</p> <p>Respectfully, Robert G. Froehlke, M.D., F.A.A.P.</p>

<p>Gerard Klazura Against Self</p>	<p>Extremely great evils have been legal within societies in the past (e.g., slavery in the U.S.A. and extermination of Jews by the Nazi Regime). Open wounds and scars of these atrocities remain today, as we still struggle with racial inequities, and just last year a 95 year old German lady was arrested in Germany and charged with complicity in the murders of 10,000 people for having worked as a secretary at a Nazi concentration camp.</p> <p>But the greatest evil of all time is happening right now with legal abortion – the intentional murder of innocent human beings in the womb. This is a war against humanity. The sponsors say that their bill is supported by “Catholics for Choice”. Therefore I think it is important to try to balance the support from this “Catholic” organization by telling you what the leader of the Catholic Church (Pope Francis) has to say about this topic. Pope Francis has been quoted: (1) “Whoever commits an abortion, murders,” and (2) “abortion is an absolute evil” and (3) “I have been very clear – abortion is homicide and it is not licit to become complicit.” And it is important to emphasize here – that anyone who supports this bill is totally complicit in this evil.</p> <p>This proposed bill is evil to the greatest depth. It even allows the baby to be murdered when partially out of the womb as she struggles for that first breath of air. Abortion is Satan’s greatest achievement as babies die with a silent scream that no one hears.</p>
<p>Domica Renner Against Self</p>	<p>HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA)</p> <p>This is an extreme measure in an to attempt to fix a perceived issue. In doing so, larger, more profound, and longer lasting devastation on the human race as a whole will result. Life begins at conception. To vote yes on this bill says that somehow a woman has the right to choose when a child is alive. Sometimes when a woman wants to have a child, the positive pregnancy test means life is already growing. Though she might not have even felt a kick, to this woman, the child is already alive. And another that was caught off guard by a new child, determines this life is a blob, or unwanted debris to remove? Even with the baby kicking within her... What if a mother took her child home from the hospital and killed the child. Would it be murder? But that same child could be legally killed only 1 day earlier with the help of a doctor it is not a crime. Every human being should understand the hypocrisy in that, and feel this deep wound that this bill would inflict on the human soul. This is just wrong.</p> <p>The #1 cause of death in the world in 2021 was abortion. This is far more of a pandemic than Covid will ever be.</p>
<p>Pamela Poll Against Self</p>	<p>This bill puts Colorado in the same league as barbaric Communist nations like North Korea and China in its total disregard for human rights and the FACT that it is talking about a human being developing in the womb. It's comical to me that Democrats are the ones pushing these extreme views in light of their supposed concern for the oppressed</p>

	<p>and the victim. Second trimester abortion as a procedure allows children to be ripped apart limb from limb without anesthesia using a sopher clamp and removed from the womb. Then the head is crushed and removed. In a 3rd trimester abortion the baby is injected with high dose Digoxin to cause fatal cardiac arrest. Then labor is induced to deliver the dead baby. This bill is evil and anyone who votes for it is participating in the death of the children who will lose their lives because of it. What has happened to your conscience? The people of Colorado do not support this and if they were shown the two procedure videos below would be horrified to know our state allows these inhumane practices to continue. Please vote no because you are a fellow human being who was once in the same stage of development as these children who are being slaughtered in the womb for any reason. It's too horrific to be allowed by any decent thoughtful person.</p> <p>Doctor explains a 2nd trimester abortion.  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgw4X7Dw_3k&amp;t=15s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgw4X7Dw_3k&amp;t=15s</a>                  Doctor explains a 3rd trimester abortion.</p>
<p>Courtney Davenport                  Against                  Self</p>	<p>My name is Courtney Davenport and I am a registered voter in Colorado. I wanted to share my testimony related to abortion. When my mother in law was a teen she got pregnant and was encouraged by her mother to have an abortion so she could focus more on her schooling. While she was under the anesthesia God gave her a dream and allowed her to feel the pain and horror the child was going through. A little while later she became pregnant again but this time knew she couldn't have the abortion because of her earlier experience. She decided to have the baby and gave birth to my future wife and the mother of my children.</p> <p>Unplanned or unpleasant circumstances are never an excuse to take a life. Life is valuable not because it is convenient but because it is a gift from God. Everyone has this right!</p> <p>Thanks for your time and I pray you have wisdom to make the right choice.</p>
<p>Dorothea Erwin                  For                  Self</p>	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I am a family nurse practitioner and certified nurse midwife and I am writing to testify in favor of the Reproductive Health Equity Act. This bill ensures access to contraceptives and abortions for all people of reproductive age, which supports reproductive justice in our state. Reproductive justice is the basic human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities. In my practice, I support all individuals right to make these decisions for themselves and their families without any form of coercion or political interference. This bill is a step towards securing reproductive justice in our communities, especially those that are marginalized. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Sharla Jerrow                  Against</p>	<p>Dear Mrs. Froelich,</p>

Self	<p>My name is Sharla Jerrow. Mother to 4 beautiful young people. This bill in and of itself is sickening to say the least. I volunteer with women who face crisis during pregnancy as I was once in their position. I can tell you without a doubt I never regret choosing life for my littles but I have spoken with women who were devastated for years after abortions. Up to birth abortions are NEVER medically necessary! This act is entirely inhumane. I would ask have you ever been witness to a partial birth abortion? You should know 100% what you are in favor of. These procedures would bring anyone with a heart to tears immediately. The unjust sentence those innocent babies are being dealt is truly indescribable. I ask you, a women who has been given an opportunity at life to consider your ways and what this act would invoke. With all love and respect, Sharla Jerrow</p>
Cassie Kimbrell Against Self	<p>My name is Cassie Kimbrell and my daughter was born here and saved here. I come to you this morning as a mom. I was skipped during the virtual hearing, but wanted to send my written testimony, though I'm sure this bill will be voted on soon and no one will read this until it's too late.</p> <p>My pregnancy wasn't perfect. Every appointment I went to, I never received good news and that I had too much amniotic fluid. Doctors seemed worried. I was constantly pressured by doctors to know I could end it. My husband never missed an appointment and felt all these same pressures, but we knew we wanted to give our child the best we could, no matter the outcome. We always heard her heartbeat, feel her move, and would sing and read to her.</p> <p>My daughter came early. My daughter was born with Esophageal Atresia, which means her esophagus wasn't connected to her stomach and her trachea was connected to her esophagus. She also has vonWillebrand's Disease type 2b, a bleeding disorder that is fifth generation in my family.</p> <p>When we were asked if we wanted to save her life after delivery, and send her to Children's, there was no doubt. We knew we needed to try and save her, no matter what happened. She was repaired at two days and has had only one dilation, but she's thriving. The doctors told us of all the worst case scenarios, but babies and children are resilient. The NICU says they can save babies born at 15 weeks more now than ever. If she was born 15 years prior and with our bleeding disorder, she might have not made it. The tech we have today can save babies now more than ever.</p> <p>I oppose this bill because we need to give all lives a chance and recognize fetuses as babies and as individuals with rights. Our government needs to protect all life, includes fetuses with heartbreaks. This bill also removes the rights of the dads and other parents to have a</p>

	<p>say in this. It's discrimination on who has the perfect pregnancy or who decides the outcome for the baby if there are disabilities. Her birth defect does not effect her day-to-day quality of life, but instead makes her unique to the world! If you met her, you wouldn't even know she had all this done to her!</p> <p>Please oppose this bill in it's entirety by giving babies their individual rights. Abortion is not conception. I'm proud we didn't give up on our daughter and hope we can fight for all children to thrive. This is a crime against humanity.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Rich Bennett Against Life Network</p>	<p>Members of the committee,</p> <p>My name is Rich Bennett, and I'm president of Life Network which operates the three Colorado Springs Pregnancy Centers. I believe Colorado is better than a bill that codifies abortion up until birth, including abortions based on race, sex or disability. This bill conflicts with modern science ... basic human rights ... and what's healthiest for young people in Colorado.</p> <p>Today, science tells us so much more about when life definitively begins than when Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973.</p> <p>Under the care of our medical director, our pregnancy centers provided 786 free ultrasounds to women facing unexpected pregnancies last year. The women who receive these ultrasounds can see their baby's heart beating just under 6 weeks into pregnancy. At 10 weeks, they come face to face with their baby's wiggling fingers and toes. No longer can a reasonable person say it's a blob of cells.</p> <p>If you choose to ignore these truths, what is indisputable is that babies are routinely born healthy as early as 21 weeks into pregnancy. I am personally aware of a baby girl within the last few days who was born at 21 weeks – 1 pound, 1 oz and just 7" long (basically the size of a pack of butter), and this baby girl's health is increasingly improving. Science and medical advances clearly demonstrate that babies at 21+ weeks are viable human lives worthy of protection.</p> <p>Only Communist China, Communist Vietnam, Communist North Korea, and currently a small number of US states allow abortion up until birth without little or no restriction. Is this the company our state wants when it comes to abortion law?</p> <p>What weighs in the balance with this bill is nothing short of life and death ... human decency vs human destruction ... healthy teens or devastated ones. I ask that you vote in a way that is not cavalier about extinguishing human life – and vote no on this bill. Thank you.</p>

	Sincerely, Rich Bennett
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## Reproductive Health Equity Act

My name is Julie Catalano and I would like to testify on behalf of the Reproductive Health Equity Act, HB22-1279. I am an RN with a Bachelor's Degree in Science, with over 30 year's experience. I worked as an OB nurse at St. Mary Corwin Hospital in Pueblo, CO for 15 years. I have worked as an adjunct professor for CSU-Pueblo as a clinical instructor in the area of obstetrics and women's health. I worked as a Nurse Manager at A Caring Pregnancy Center in Pueblo, CO for 2 years and performed ultrasounds on women to determine the viability of their pregnancy.

I do not believe this bill is in the best interest of the women of Colorado. Allowing abortion for any reason up to the moment of birth is detrimental, not only to the woman and her child, but is egregious scientifically when you consider the technological advances in medicine since 1973 when Roe vs Wade was passed. Fetal viability is just over 20 weeks now and allowing someone to destroy a human life for any reason is not only unethical it is unconscionable. We also now know that women who abort or lose a child before 32 weeks, especially with their first pregnancy are at increased risk of breast cancer, up to 25% increase with each abortion. This will lead to increased health costs in the long run.

Having seen hundreds of pregnancies by ultrasound, I can testify that the fetal heart begins to beat at about 6 week's gestation. By eight weeks distinctly human features are seen and movement can be seen. By 9-10 weeks active independent vigorous movement of arms and legs are seen. By 11-12 weeks gestation the fetus is a fully formed human with a four chamber heart, a functioning kidney, brain waves, fingerprints, and all the other organs necessary for life beyond the womb. The next six months are for growth, the deposition of fat, bones to solidify, and organs to finish maturing. Many premature infants have been born after the 20 week mark and with neonatal intensive care have been able to complete the maturation process outside of the womb. At what point did it become ok to end the life of this child? When in the history of the world have we allowed people to kill other people for their own or someone else's convenience?

I would also like to speak to the woman's right to her own body. In my experience, the majority of women who were seeking an abortion were being pressured by their boyfriend or family to abort. Many did not feel they had any other options. Once they were directed to the resources available to help them, they were empowered to continue their pregnancy and either parent their baby or allow another couple to adopt their baby. Sadly women of color were the most determined to abort because they have been told that they wouldn't be able to get ahead if they didn't end their pregnancy. This is a profound lie as I have personally helped many women not only continue with their schooling, but go on to higher education and a career because they wanted to give their child a good life. Also, if abortion is such a great thing for women, why does it have to be hidden from parents when their minor daughter seeks an abortion? Children can't be given a medication at school without parental permission, why would a chemical or surgical abortion, which carries far more physical and emotion risk, be kept from parents? This is detrimental to the family structure and the state has no right to get involved in personal family matters. Please do not pass this bill.

Maria is a frightened young woman struggling with a difficult decision. Her marriage of 3 years is a disaster as her husband Johann drinks himself into oblivion to forget the pain of the loss of their first child and his unfulfilled ambitions. He has become a danger to his family as he's grown bitter and abusive. To make matters more difficult Maria is pregnant with their second child, and is unsure if she should go through with this pregnancy. Maria is tempted to get an abortion, as she does not want to risk her child living with an abusive father, or go through the pain of watching another child pass away. Maria chose not to have an abortion, and her son Ludwig van Beethoven, went on to be one of the most renowned musical composers the world has ever known.

I am writing to ask that you vote no regarding HB22-1279. This bill would be a grave disservice to the millions of women and children that have been, and will be, devastated by abortion. This bill would make abortion-on-demand legal under Colorado law at any time, for any reason, and it would also invalidate all existing laws that limit abortion (like parental notification for minors), and prohibit the creation of any new laws.

Sadly, the language of HB22-1279 perpetuates the denial of the personhood of the unborn. It states that "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state." There are two important questions we must ask. First, is the fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus a human being?

In an article titled, "When Do Human Beings Begin?" Dr. Dianne Irving, Ph.D., writes:

"To begin with, scientifically something very radical occurs between the processes of gametogenesis and fertilization- the change from a simple part of one human being (i.e., sperm) and a simple part of another human being (i.e., an oocyte- usually referred to as an "ovum" or "egg"), . . . to a new genetically unique, newly existing, individual, whole living human being (a single-cell embryonic human zygote). That is upon fertilization, parts of human beings have actually been transformed into something very different from what they were before; they have been changed into a single, whole human being. . .The product of fertilization is a human being with 46 chromosomes. . .Fertilization refers to the initiation of a new human being."

Biology tells us that embryos, and fetuses are fully and individually human from fertilization onward. If this were not true, there would be no need to debate the consequential question of personhood. Thus, the second question we must ask is, should humans be recognized as persons under the law? Absolutely! While this question may seem ludicrous, this bill would set a dangerous precedent. That the definition of a human being and their personhood has been so thoroughly questioned regarding the unborn, is highly concerning. We must ask, where does this logic end? The questioning of someone's humanity and value, is the same sentiment, that has allowed unspeakable atrocities throughout history,

like the Holocaust. With that said, the intrinsic humanity of unborn children qualifies them as persons and should guarantee their protection under the law.

It is no secret that the explicit intent of abortion, is to harm the embryo or fetus to death. From an ethical standpoint, it results in the violent destruction of a living human being typically via oral contraceptives (like abortion pills) or a surgical procedure. From a technical standpoint, abortion is usually a blind, surgical procedure that takes place within one of the most vulnerable regions of a woman's body. While HB22-1279 claims that "access to reproductive health care is a matter of statewide concern affecting the health and safety of Coloradans," it blatantly ignores the fact that abortion both brutally terminates the life of a human being and poses serious risks for women. This is not reproductive health care, but rather "de-productive" health care. This does not take into account the risks associated with abortion such as breast cancer, uterine damage, complications in future pregnancies, and death. This also disregards the many women who have endured significant psychological anguish and remorse after having an abortion. The trauma these women experience from an abortion puts them at an increased risk of depression, alcohol and drug use, and even suicide.

Knowing that abortion not only ends the life of a human being, but also poses serious health risks for women, this bill would allow minors to make life-altering decisions, without parental notification. This is flagrantly unconstitutional, as parental rights under the due process clause are long standing historical precedent. Failing to inform parents of significant matters of care, concern, control, nurture, upbringing, management, and/or education regarding their children and thereby failing to allow parents to exercise these rights is unlawful. In the Supreme Court of the United States' ruling in *Troxel v. Granville* (2000), 530 U.S. at 66, they stated that:

"The liberty interest at issue in this case — the interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children — is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by this Court. More than 75 years ago, in *Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390, 399, 401 (1923), we held that the "liberty" protected by the Due Process Clause includes the right of parents to "establish a home and bring up children" and "to control the education of their own."

The Supreme Court went on to cite 7 other cases in which they upheld parental rights, and ultimately ruled that:

"In light of this extensive precedent, it cannot now be doubted that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects the fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children."

Finally, and of most importance to me, as a Christian I believe in the sanctity of life. I believe that life begins at conception and ends at natural death. As such, I believe it is our responsibility to stand against an industry that seeks to end the lives of these innocent human beings. Representatives, I urge you, please vote no on HB22-1279 and protect for the unborn the one right that no one can live without—the right to life.

Thank you for your time and attention on this crucial issue.

"I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."

Psalm 139:14a

March 9, 2022

Dear Colorado House of Representatives Health & Insurance Committee,

The subject at issue here in HB-22-1279 has always made me uncomfortable. I certainly hope that no one will actually feel good should HB22-1279 manage to pass and be signed into law. Colorado really should be codifying the fact that we were all priceless and we were meant to be here!

Anyone who has lost a newborn, suffered a miscarriage, and/or struggled with infertility knows and feels the fact that life in a womb is a human being. The idea that the State of Colorado apparently places more value on a kidney than it does to a developing human being reveals that our society has latched on to some very warped thinking about what life means on this good earth.

*Being that it is so natural for most of us to want children at some point in our lives, then we must admit to ourselves that it is incredibly un-natural to target and end the development of a human being in the womb.*

It is terribly unfortunate that our generation has grown up and developed a very bad attitude towards our families, children, pregnancy, and childbirth. On the one hand, our society appears obsessed with the raising of children. On the other, we view children as a kind of burden. Indeed, children do in a certain way “ruin” your life...but children also provide us with a miracle. Children change direction in our lives. Indeed! Children reset our priorities. It is correct that raising a child is incredibly inconvenient. However, convenience is NOT an argument for making an abortion procedure a freely available option for birth control. Let’s face it, abortion IS birth control after the fact.

*Abortion is the choice to end a human life at a certain age.*

If HB22-1279 is going to be declare and sell abortion as some kind of “economic benefit”, then we also must appropriately account for the Opportunity Cost of eliminating Life:

*So, what is the “economic” cost of destroying a miracle that should have been allowed to be born, raised, and lived a full life in our society?*

A society that cannibalizes itself so easily loses its legitimacy. We lose our moral authority. We lose all credibility. In fact, it raises the question as to whether tax dollars really should be spent on Education. Why invest in people at all if the Colorado Legislature views life to be a cheap and expendable resource?

Access per se is not an argument for approving of this bill. Should we not be asking:

***Who exactly are these people that were not allowed “access” to THEIR lives?***

What’s more, the fact that this bill specifically targets rural residents and “people of color” is incredibly insulting. When did rural and “people of color” become incapable of traveling to a doctor’s office?! Could the language of the bill also be more specific about the ethnicities the State is aiming at? The subtext obviously reveals what the almighty State of Colorado must really think about all of us.

*The Colorado Legislature intends to target and “cull” a certain segment of the population.*

Life is special. It is never easy or certain. No one is ever truly ready to bring a child into this world. What’s more, many of us did not want children when we were young, immature, not “settled”

...whatever that may be! However, the fact that a vasectomy and other sterilizations procedures have always had restrictions means that we as a society admit that our decisions are not always correct or mature or appropriate at certain times in our lives. We admit that what we think about timing is always an issue, i.e. "Family Planning". So then, why would we even think to make abortion easier when our beliefs naturally change during the course of our lives?! I would think that even those who believe that abortion is a right would prefer that the birth of a child is preferable to the elimination of the life and potential of a person yet to be born. Therefore, ...

*Should we not be making it easier for a child to be born instead of making it easier and more convenient to cut off that child from civilization?*

Regardless of what anyone thinks about abortion, the consequences are severe. What if you make a decision and change your mind later after the fact? It is too late. Once an abortion is conducted, it cannot be taken back! Therefore, it is extremely reckless to promote this bill, as if abortion should ever be viewed as some kind of off-the-shelf freely available option anyway. The very notion that abortion should be easier or that it has no consequences reveals that we must obviously view life as a cheap and disposable commodity. Or perhaps, just some human beings really are cheap and disposable commodities? Maybe the value of a human being is just a timing issue? Consider what this really means...

HB22-1279 should be accurately described as **'A Bill For an Act to Cull and "Reduce the Surplus Population"'** ...borrowing from the words spoken by the former bitter and misguided Ebenezer Scrooge in Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*.

You have an awesome responsibility and duty. Please consider the consequences of this bill. Pray on it. Vote your conscience. However, take special care here. We must all look further than ourselves when it comes to bringing a child into this world. Life is obviously a powerful force and it is much much bigger than us. This bill promotes taking a child OUT of this world.

We should err on the side of caution. Do NOT go there.  
I ask that you please vote NO on HB22-1279.

Sincerely,

Nick Van Duren  
16615 Mystic Lane  
Strasburg, CO 80136  
[vanduren.nick@gmail.com](mailto:vanduren.nick@gmail.com)  
(303) 596-0631

CC: Representative Rod Bockenfeld

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Members of the House Health & Insurance Committee**

My name is Hayley Marcus, MD and I am a family physician in Denver, CO. I am submitting written testimony on behalf of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians in SUPPORT of HB 22-1279 “Reproductive Health Equity Act” because it will ensure Coloradans continue to have the freedom to make the best choices for themselves regarding their personal health and wellbeing and that of their families.

I have cared for several patients here in Colorado that come from our neighboring states that do not provide such protections. I have patients travel to Colorado for 6, 10, or even 13 hours to receive the reproductive care that they can’t get at home, in places like Texas, South Dakota, Wyoming, and more. These women unnecessarily miss work and struggle to find child care. They already have to pay for the appointment, and in addition they have large (and unnecessary) bills for gas, hotel, and food. I don’t want my fellow Coloradans to have to go to such great lengths and surmount so many unnecessary obstacles to receive basic health care. Women need reproductive healthcare so they can take the best care of themselves, their bodies, the families they already have, and the families they want to have in the future. Women and their families deserve to get this care where they live, in our great state of Colorado, just like they would any other type of healthcare.

I wanted to share my experiences to alert you to the struggles too many women already have to receive their reproductive health care that should be considered routine, necessary, and normal. We then must remember all the women who needed care and couldn’t receive it because of unnecessary barriers set in place by other legislation. Other legislation goes out of its way to make people’s lives harder and intrude on their private healthcare decisions. The downstream consequences of these barriers for people, their families, and their communities are enormous and unjust. Here in Colorado, we prioritize people’s health and liberty, and we should codify that into law.

The introductory language of this bills is beautiful and eloquent. “This bill declares that every individual has a fundamental right to use or refuse contraception; every pregnant individual has a fundamental right to continue the pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion.” It is simple and straightforward. People, i.e. my patients, should have the right to make the best healthcare decisions for themselves and we in the state of Colorado will not place unnecessary barriers to doing so. I can certify that all of my patients make their reproductive decisions with great care and consideration, for their themselves, their current families, their future families, and their community. I hope Colorado can continue to let them.

Thank you for your time and I hope you consider my testimony. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Hayley Marcus, MD  
Family Physician  
Denver, CO



I am writing to ask that you vote no regarding HB22-1279. This bill would be a grave disservice to the millions of women and children that have been, and will be, devastated by abortion. This bill would make abortion-on-demand legal under Colorado law at any time, for any reason, and it would also invalidate all existing laws that limit abortion (like parental notification for minors), and prohibit the creation of any new laws.

Sadly, the language of HB22-1279 perpetuates the denial of the personhood of the unborn. It states that "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state." There are two important questions we must ask. First, is the fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus a human being?

Biology tells us that embryos, and fetuses are fully and individually *human* from fertilization onward. If this were not true, there would be no need to debate the consequential question of personhood. Thus, the second question we must ask is, should humans be recognized as persons under the law? Absolutely! That the definition of a human being and their personhood has been so thoroughly questioned regarding the unborn, is highly concerning. The intrinsic humanity of unborn children qualifies them as persons and should guarantee their protection under the law.

While HB22-1279 claims that "access to reproductive health care is a matter of statewide concern affecting the health and safety of Coloradans," it blatantly ignores the fact that abortion both brutally terminates the life of a human being and poses serious risks for women. This does not take into account the risks associated with abortion such as breast cancer, uterine damage, complications in future pregnancies, and death. This also disregards the many women who have endured significant psychological anguish and remorse after having an abortion.

Knowing that abortion not only ends the life of a human being, but also poses serious health risks for women, this bill would allow minors to make life-altering decisions, without parental notification. This is flagrantly unconstitutional, as parental rights under the due process clause are long standing historical precedent. Failing to inform parents of significant matters of care, concern, control, nurture, upbringing, management, and/or education regarding their children and thereby failing to allow parents to exercise these rights is unlawful. In the Supreme Court of the United States' ruling in *Troxel v. Granville* (2000), 530 U.S. at 66, they stated that:

"The liberty interest at issue in this case — the interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children — is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by this Court. More than 75 years ago, in *Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390, 399, 401 (1923), we held that the "liberty" protected by the Due Process Clause includes the right of parents to "establish a home and bring up children" and "to control the education of their own."

The Supreme Court went on to cite 7 other cases in which they upheld parental rights, and ultimately ruled that:

"In light of this extensive precedent, it cannot now be doubted that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects the fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children."

Finally, and of most importance to me, as a Christian I believe in the sanctity of life. I believe that life begins at conception and ends at natural death. As such, I believe it is our responsibility to stand against an industry that seeks to end the lives of these innocent human beings. Representatives, I urge you, please vote no on HB22-1279 and protect for the unborn the one right that no one can live without—the right to life.

Thank you for your time and attention on this crucial issue.

"I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."  
Psalm 139:14a

For as long as I can remember, I have always known that I wanted to be a midwife. I was fascinated by the swollen bellies of pregnant women and the glittery eyes of babies, I wanted to be a part of it in any way I could. My beliefs went through many renaissances but my passion never faltered. Part of working in women's healthcare is understanding that pregnancy doesn't always end in a healthy baby regardless of the choices a woman makes. A midwife works with women before babies.

When I was 14, I was convinced that I was pregnant. An older boy had told me we shouldn't use a condom and because I didn't want to upset him, I agreed. I nervously watched my period tracker app count down the days, tearing pieces of cartoon paper away from a cartoon calendar, it all felt very silly. Thankfully I wasn't pregnant and I thought to myself, good now I can get on with my life and I don't need to tell anyone because I figured it out all on my own! Ridiculous, right? Hearing it now, it's never been more clear that I was a scared child.

I finally told someone about my experience a year later and I was taken to have STI testing and talk about being put on birth control, it was the first time since feeling scared to say no to that older boy that I felt truly in control of my health. It's important to me that all women are afforded the peace of mind I didn't have. Had I known my right to an abortion would have been promised, not posed with a question mark, I may not have toiled over my fate for so long. Every 14-year-old girl deserves to dream big, and rest assured that her young life is in her control. I want to be able to provide the comfort I received, and part of that is letting women know that their health and comfort come before anyone else's.

Good afternoon, members of the House Health and Insurance Committee. I'm Shara Smith, executive director of the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado. I'm here today to ask that you vote in favor of House Bill 1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, or RHEA.

As the flagship interfaith public policy and advocacy organization in the Centennial State for the past two decades, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado has brought together more than 400 congregations spanning over two dozen faith traditions, and we plan on bringing another 300 congregations into the fold over the next several years. Our network includes a vast array of faiths and religions, from Catholicism and Protestant Christianity to Buddhism, Sikhism, and the Church of Latter-Day Saints, to Islam and Zoroastrianism, along with many other faith communities too numerous to include here today.

As you can imagine, bringing in so many diverse faith traditions and philosophies under one tent is difficult. But the faith families in our network all stand together when it comes to issues important to Coloradans like affordable housing, racial equity, criminal justice reform, and reproductive freedom.

**I want to emphasize that people of faith are not monolithic when it comes to reproductive rights.** On just three days notice, several of our clergy members heeded the call to come before you today in support of RHEA, representing the United Church of Christ, Centers for Spiritual Living, the Unitarian Universalist Church, Judaism, and other interfaith traditions. They came from the Denver Metro area, from El Paso County, and Douglas County.

I say all of this to stress that no one faith matters more than another. Faith is how we make sense of the inexplicable, and is carried on by the stories we pass down to future generations. Because no one belief system is superior to others, the practitioners of one particular faith should never get to impose their own personal beliefs and values on the public at large. Rejecting RHEA on the basis of one faith tradition would create a hierarchy of influence for all faith traditions in our state.

This gets to the heart of why RHEA is so important: This bill doesn't force pregnant people to get contraceptions or abortions, nor does it mandate that they refuse contraception or abortion. It merely establishes that it is every individual's fundamental right to make the decision that is best for them, based on their own circumstances and their own faith traditions. This is not simply a pro-abortion bill; this is a pro-freedom bill. And protecting faith and freedom is at the heart of why the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado staff, along with several of our clergy partners, are here today.

I urge this committee to pass House Bill 1279 without delay. Thank you for your time.

 *Jeanne Pichette Bair* \_\_\_\_\_ DNP, CNM, FACNM \_\_\_\_\_

613 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
DENVER CO 80209

NPI # 128568293

Representative Susan Lontine  
Chair  
House Health & Insurance Committee  
200 E. Colfax Avenue., Room 307  
Denver, CO 80203

March 6, 2022

Dear Representative Lontine,

I am writing in support of HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act. It is crucial that we solidify state legislation protecting women's rights as challenges to Roe v. Wade go before the Supreme Court of the United States. It is clear from results of recent elections that the majority of Coloradoans support reproductive freedom.

I am a Certified Nurse -Midwife who has been providing women's health care for over forty years. It is crucial that Colorado women continue to have access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including contraception and abortion. I am all too familiar with the stress and hardship of an unwanted pregnancy. The decision to end or continue a pregnancy must be made by the woman alone. It is her body and her future.

Sincerely,

*Jeane P Bair*

Jeanne Pichette Bair DNP CNM FACNM



Testimony of National Advocates for Pregnant Women before Colorado House  
in Support of HB 1279

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1279, a bill that, among other critical protections, would ensure that state actors cannot target pregnant people with arrest or prosecution related to their pregnancies and pregnancy outcomes, including miscarriages, stillbirths, and abortions. NAPW is a non-partisan legal advocacy organization dedicated to the welfare of pregnant people and their families. Our testimony draws on over 20 years of experience on cases in which state actors arrested and prosecuted pregnant or postpartum women for experiencing pregnancy losses or engaging in acts or omissions that posed some imagined risk of harm to a fetus. State actors continue to try to bring cases against pregnant women based on the perceived risk of harm to the fetus and/or based on pregnancy outcomes even when it is beyond the scope of the statutory language and clear legislative intent of state criminal and civil laws. Women were criminalized for the outcomes of their pregnancies before *Roe v. Wade* and are still being criminalized for those outcomes today.

NAPW has documented more than 1,600 instances since 1973 in which women were arrested, prosecuted, convicted, detained, or forced to undergo medical interventions that would not have occurred but for their status as pregnant persons whose rights state actors assumed could be denied in the interest of fetal protection.<sup>1</sup> Women have been charged with crimes including murder, depraved heart homicide, manslaughter, and feticide because they experienced miscarriages and stillbirths, or because they were unable to “guarantee” that babies they gave birth to would survive. These prosecutions are brought despite the fact that pregnancy losses are dishearteningly common, with miscarriages (a loss before 20 weeks gestation) occurring in an estimated 10% to 15% of pregnancies and stillbirths (a loss after 20 weeks gestation) occurring in an estimated 0.6% of pregnancies.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> NAPW, *Arrests and Deprivations of Liberty of Pregnant Women, 1973-2020* (Sept. 2021), [bit.ly/arrests1973to2020](https://bit.ly/arrests1973to2020); Paltrow & Flavin, *Arrests of and Forced Interventions on Pregnant Women in the United States, 1973–2005: Implications for Women’s Legal Status and Public Health*, 38 J. Health Politics, Pol. & L. 299, 323 (2013).

<sup>2</sup> Dugas, Carla & Slane, Valori H, *Miscarriage*, (Jan. 29, 2021), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK532992/>; Hoyert, D. L., Ph.D., & Gregory, E. C., M.P.H, *Division of Vital Statistics. Cause of Fetal Death: Data From the Fetal Death Report, 2014*, (Oct. 30, 2016), [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr65/nvsr65\\_07.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr65/nvsr65_07.pdf).



Despite the fact that pregnancy losses can rarely—if ever—be attributed to anything that a pregnant woman did or did not do, these prosecutions are brought based on the theory that once a woman becomes pregnant, her otherwise legal acts or omissions may be viewed as crimes. These prosecutions have been brought under laws that were never intended to criminalize women for experiencing pregnancy losses or for any action or failure to act during pregnancy. Moreover, as explained further below, these prosecutions have dangerous implications for maternal and neonatal health.

Colorado is not exempt from these disturbing national trends regarding the criminalization of pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes. For example, in 2016, NAPW was asked to advise a Jefferson County public defender representing a mother who was arrested from the hospital where she had just given birth. She was charged with child abuse resulting in injury. The arrest was based on her pregnancy and alleged use of a controlled substance. And this legislative body has rejected attempts to undermine the rights and personhood of pregnant people in the past, as have Colorado voters on numerous occasions, rejecting multiple fetal personhood measures.<sup>3</sup>

It is important to be clear about what HB 1279 actually does and the very real dangers of not codifying this bill. Passage of HB 1279 would ensure that no pregnant or postpartum person would be subjected to the trauma of a criminal investigation or other rights violation on top of the trauma of experiencing a pregnancy loss or for alleged actions taken or not taken during pregnancy that posed some imagined risk of harm to the fetus. This is happening right now, in nearly every state in the nation. At NAPW, we are documenting increasing prosecutions of pregnant people in relation to their pregnancies. In just the past 15 years, we have identified nearly 1,300 such cases, including pregnant women who have been arrested for falling down stairs, drinking alcohol, giving birth at home, being in a “dangerous” location, having HIV, experiencing a drug dependency problem, or attempting suicide. Of course, none of these actions are illegal, yet because the individual was pregnant, criminal or civil charges were brought. When challenged, the vast majority of such prosecutions and state interventions have failed, in part, because *Roe* and *Casey* established a rule of law that prohibits treating pregnant people as a special, lesser class of persons. And, as NAPW’s brief argues, these 1,600 cases since 1973 are a harbinger of what is to come. If the Court overturns *Roe*, we know that police, prosecutors, and judges will too often feel that they have unfettered power to criminalize pregnancy and all pregnancy outcomes.

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<sup>3</sup> Paltrow & Flavin, *Arrests of and Forced Interventions on Pregnant Women in the United States, 1973–2005: Implications for Women’s Legal Status and Public Health*, 38 J. Health Politics, Pol. & L. 299, 323 (2013).



Examples from other states also demonstrate the risk that prosecutors will seek to criminalize pregnancy losses, even under seemingly clear criminal statutes that were never intended to authorize the prosecution of pregnant women for their own pregnancy outcomes. In California, for example, Adora Perez and Chelsea Becker were prosecuted and incarcerated for murder after they experienced stillbirths that prosecutors blamed—without scientific evidence—on their use of methamphetamine. Ms. Perez and Ms. Becker were both prosecuted and incarcerated despite the fact that the California legislature has consistently refused to adopt any criminal law that would penalize a woman for experiencing a pregnancy loss or for being pregnant and using drugs. A court dismissed the murder charge against Ms. Becker, but not until she had already spent 16 months locked in a county jail in the midst of the pandemic. Ms. Perez was convicted and is currently serving an 11-year sentence. Even the California Attorney General has expressed opposition to the misuse of the state’s homicide law to respond to pregnancy losses and is supporting post-conviction relief efforts through amicus briefs filed in her case. Her final hope hinges on a writ of habeas corpus that remains pending before the trial court. The cases of Adora Perez and Chelsea Becker make clear the need to pass HB 1279 to ensure that no prosecutor can investigate or charge a woman for experiencing a pregnancy loss based on any claimed ambiguity in the law.

HB 1279 also represents good public policy, consistent with the recommendations of every leading medical and public health organization. The American Medical Association,<sup>4</sup> American Nurses Association,<sup>5</sup> American Psychological Association,<sup>6</sup> American Psychiatric

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<sup>4</sup> Am. Med. Ass’n, Policy Statement H-420.962, *Perinatal Addiction - Issues in Care and Prevention* (last modified 2019) (“Transplacental drug transfer should not be subject to criminal sanctions or civil liability...”); Am. Med. Ass’n, Policy Statement H-420.969, *Legal Interventions During Pregnancy* (last modified 2018) (“Criminal sanctions or civil liability for harmful behavior by the pregnant woman toward her fetus are inappropriate. Pregnant substance abusers should be provided with rehabilitative treatment appropriate to their specific physiological and psychological needs.”).

<sup>5</sup> Am. Nurses Ass’n, Position Statement, *Non-punitive Treatment for Pregnant and Breast-feeding Women with Substance Use Disorders* (2017) (“Contrary to claims that prosecution and incarceration will deter pregnant women from substance use, the greater result is that fear of detection and punishment poses a significant barrier to treatment.”).

<sup>6</sup> Am. Psych. Ass’n, *Pregnant and Postpartum Adolescent Girls and Women with Substance-Related Disorders* (updated: 2020) (“Punitive approaches result in women being significantly less likely to seek substance use treatment and prenatal care due to fear of prosecution and fear of the removal of children from their custody. This places both the mother and her children at greater risk of harm.”) (internal citation omitted).



Association,<sup>7</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics,<sup>8</sup> and every other major public health and medical group unanimously oppose punitive responses to pregnancy, finding that such responses are harmful to the health of women and children, and diminish families' healthcare access. As the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists explains, punitive responses pose "serious threats to people's health and the health system itself ... [by] erod[ing] trust in the medical system, making people less likely to seek help when they need it."<sup>9</sup>

Facilitating punitive actions against pregnant people and new parents causes real and devastating health consequences by deterring them from seeking healthcare.<sup>10</sup> In particular, the fear that medical authorities will report them to child welfare providers or criminal law enforcement deters pregnant women from seeking prenatal care or drug treatment services.<sup>[11]</sup> This fear of penalties also deters parents from bringing their children in for medical care, further undermining family health. It creates a disincentive for pregnant women with actual drug dependency problems from having an open and honest relationship with their prenatal healthcare providers out of fear that disclosure will lead to criminal prosecutions or loss of custody of their children.<sup>11</sup> Punitive laws that drive a wedge between patients and their doctors have

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<sup>7</sup> Am. Psychiatric Ass'n, Position Statement, *Assuring the Appropriate Care of Pregnant and Newly-Delivered Women with Substance Use Disorders* (2019) ("A public health response, rather than a punitive legal approach to substance use during pregnancy is critical.").

<sup>8</sup> Am. Acad. of Pediatrics, Comm. on Substance Use and Prevention, Policy Statement, *A Public Health Response to Opioid Use in Pregnancy* (2017) ("The existing literature supports the position that punitive approaches to substance use in pregnancy are ineffective and may have detrimental effects on both maternal and child health.").

<sup>9</sup> ACOG, *Opposition to Criminalization of Individuals During Pregnancy and Postpartum Period* (2020), <https://www.acog.org/clinical-information/policy-and-position-statements/statements-of-policy/2020/opposition-criminalization-of-individuals-pregnancy-and-postpartum-period>. For similar reasons, ACOG has also specifically opposed criminal penalties for people who have abortions outside of approved medical settings. See ACOG, *Decriminalization of Self-Induced Abortion* (2017), <https://www.acog.org/clinical-information/policy-and-position-statements/position-statements/2017/decriminalization-of-self-induced-abortion>.

<sup>10</sup> Meghan Boone & Benjamin J. McMichael, *State-Created Fetal Harm*, 109 *Georgetown L. J.* 475 (2021); Laura J. Faherty et. al., *Association of Punitive and Reporting State Policies Related to Substance Use in Pregnancy With Rates of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome*, *JAMA Open Network* (2019), <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2755304>; Martha A. Jessup, *Extrinsic Barriers to Substance Abuse Treatment Among Pregnant Drug Dependent Women*, 33 *J. Drug Issues* 285 (2003) (finding that women identified fear of punitive actions from helping institutions and individuals as a major barrier to prenatal care); Sarah Roberts, "You Have to Stop Using Before You Go to the Doctor": *Barriers to Prenatal Care for Women Who Use Drugs During Pregnancy*, Presentation at Am. Public Health Ass'n Annual Meeting (Nov. 6, 2007), available at [http://apha.confex.com/apha/135am/techprogram/paper\\_149351.htm](http://apha.confex.com/apha/135am/techprogram/paper_149351.htm) ("For women who want a healthy baby and want to reduce or stop their drug use, fear of being reported to CPS is an additional barrier to care.").

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*; see also Sarah E. Wakeman et al., *When Reimagining Systems of Safety, Take a Closer Look at the Child Welfare System*, *Health Affairs* (Oct. 7, 2020), <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20201002.72121/full/>; Sheigla Murphy and Marcia Rosenbaum,



demonstrable negative impacts on fetal and neonatal health. For example, empirical research found that Tennessee’s “fetal assault” law “resulted in twenty fetal deaths and sixty infant deaths” in 2015 alone.<sup>12</sup> Another empirical study found a higher prevalence of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in states with punitive policies in effect.<sup>13</sup>

We strongly support HB 1279 and urge the Colorado Legislature to pass it to prevent the insidious prosecution of people in relation to pregnancy. HB 1279 will guard against traumatizing criminal investigations and family separation, and prioritizes maternal and infant health and will ensure that the rapidly expanding prosecutorial playbook that targets pregnant people for criminalization will have no place in Colorado.

**Organizational Contact:**

**XXXX**

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*Pregnant Women on Drugs: Combating Stereotypes and Stigma*, at 89 (1998) (concluding based on interviews with 120 women who were pregnant and used drugs that “[t]he women most in need of services – those most heavily involved in the drug life – were most alienated from prenatal care. Few felt they could disclose their drug use without risking custody loss or stigma.”).

<sup>12</sup> Boone & McMichael, *supra* note TK at 501, 514; *see also* Wendy A. Bach, *Prosecuting Poverty, Criminalizing Care*, 60 *William & Mary L. Rev.* 3 (2019); SisterReach et. al., *Tennessee’s Fetal Assault Law: Understanding its impact on marginalized women* (Dec. 14, 2020), <https://www.nationaladvocatesforpregnantwomen.org/tennessees-fetal-assault-law-understanding-its-impact-on-marginalized-women/>.

<sup>13</sup> Faherty et al.; *supra* note TK; *see also* Haffajee et al., *supra* note TK; Sarah C.M. Roberts & Cheri Pies, *Complex Calculations: How Drug Use During Pregnancy Becomes a Barrier to Prenatal Care*, 15 *Maternal Fetal Health J.* 33 (2011).

My story takes place in March of 1996. I was a newlywed, working as a preschool teacher and starting nursing school in the fall. No one would have guessed that I was also desperately seeking an abortion, very concerned with how to navigate that process in a deeply conservative state. Coming from Colorado, I had a few friends who had gone through the process of getting an abortion in high school or college. Their experiences seemed fairly simple, aside from their own unique emotional and psychological impacts. They were able to easily make an appointment at a local health agency or with their doctor to safely and discreetly get the care that they needed. Somehow I knew that my situation would be different.

My marriage was an abusive one almost from the beginning. At first it was just verbal abuse, with only threats of physical violence. Once we moved 1500 miles away from all of my friends and family, it became physically abusive as well. Almost from the moment we started unpacking our life there, I began fantasizing about how I would one day escape.

My husband had a horrible temper and did everything he could to isolate me from my former life and my support network. He checked all of my mail, he monitored my phone calls, I wasn't allowed to drive anywhere by myself, and all of the money I made at my job went straight to him - with my allowance being \$20 a week and nothing more. I was horrified when I found out that I was pregnant, and as soon as I told my husband, he blew up at me, telling me that it was my fault, we were broke and couldn't possibly afford to have a baby, how could I have been so irresponsible? Birth control was "*my responsibility*", and he accused me of secretly stopping my birth control pills so that I could get pregnant and use that as an excuse to be lazy and not graduate nursing school. The beratement went on and on, and ended with "*Well, we are getting rid of it*".

The only complication is that I had planned a trip back to Colorado to visit family for Easter, and we couldn't get an appointment for an abortion until after I returned from that trip.

This was the first time I would be alone and "unattended" by him in the presence of my family and friends since our wedding day. He was already unhappy that I was traveling alone because it obviously meant he couldn't control who I talked to and what I did while I was away. This pregnancy added another layer of panic for him. He said "*When you go home, you can't tell anyone that you are pregnant, and if you do, I will kill you*". I had no reason not to believe him and I was terrified. What was a bright spot on the horizon - going home to be with my family and away from him - had instantly turned into a pit in my stomach. I settled back into my familiar modes of fear and hopelessness.

The trip came and went, and I returned home with my secret intact. I had processed the fact that I would not stay pregnant, and I actually started to look forward to having the abortion. I did not want to bring a child into this marriage, and I did not want any additional reasons to stay connected to this man. In my mind, if I could get through this, I could still escape somewhat easily, and hopefully soon.

The morning of the appointment, we arrived at the clinic parking lot. An attendant came up to the car window to explain the safety protocols. They said that because there were always

groups of protestors gathered at the entrance, heckling patients, or worse:

1. We would have to stay in our car until a police officer could escort us inside.
2. We would both be given bulletproof vests to wear for the walk from the car to the clinic entrance.

As we waited for the escort, and put our vests on, my husband told me that I should see if I could still pick up some hours at the preschool in the afternoon so that I wasn't losing an entire day's worth of pay. He was unreasonably upset at how expensive the appointment was going to be.

We were escorted inside and I tried to block out the sounds of people shouting at me - I ignored their posters and signs, looking at the ground and watching my feet follow each other into the front door of the clinic. We arrived at reception and were given a clipboard with paperwork to fill out. The waiting area was huge, with a long line of chairs arranged back to back, most of the chairs were already full; girls and women of all ages, races, and backgrounds. This place was a strange common ground for all of us. No one had a partner with them aside from me and you could tell that made him very uncomfortable. He insulted many of them under his breath as we walked to find an open seat, and I pleaded with him to be quiet while I filled out my paperwork. The girl I sat next to said *"Every time I come here I have to wait forever"* My heart fell even further.

Once my paperwork was finished we walked back up to reception to hand it over to the intake nurse - she offered that if I was interested in any kind of pain relief aside from tylenol, that would be an additional fee. Before I could say anything my husband declined on my behalf. I knew better than to argue.

Not long afterward I was called back for triage and the clinic rules were that I had to go alone. Once again my husband was visibly annoyed but I felt nothing but relief. The nurse reviewed my paperwork and verified all of my information. She asked me in several different ways if getting an abortion was my choice, ensuring that I was not being forced against my will to do so - I passed those questions with flying colors because I had learned how to lie quite well at this point. The final question, and I can't remember the exact words, but something like *"Are you in an abusive relationship?"* I may have hesitated for a moment, but I know the "right" answer to this question too... *No, I am not.* I just wanted to get this over with.

We continued on to do the initial necessary blood work. One of the results came back that I have an RH negative blood type, which would necessitate an additional medicine be given to me as part of the abortion to ensure healthy future pregnancies. This was of course...for an additional fee, which sent my husband through the roof, but he handed over the cash and that was that. All we had to do now was wait.

Finally I was called back for my procedure - I changed into my paper gown and was brought into a large surgical room where a nurse helped me get situated into stirrups and laid down on the table.

The doctor came in and said some kind words to me that I don't remember as the room came alive with sounds and lights while the procedure began. A nurse held my hand the entire time, even when I squeezed hard from the pain, she never let go, and she would occasionally stroke my hair and maintain eye contact with me - it seemed her only job was to comfort me. I was surprised at how quickly it was all over.

Afterward, I had to spend a certain amount of time in a post surgical recovery room, answered a few more questions, and finally I was released.

In the days that followed, I recovered well, with no major discomfort or issues. I was incredibly thankful that the whole ordeal was over with, and that I could do my best to move on.

Three months later, one morning after my husband left for work, I finally gathered the courage to call a friend and tell her that I was miserable and needed help. She came to pick me up and immediately drove me to the airport so that I could fly home to Colorado. I never returned to my husband, and was divorced soon afterward.

I am beyond grateful that I was able to avoid bringing another life into a marriage that was often violent and always unhealthy. I cannot imagine how my life would be had I not been able to have access to an abortion at that time. As scary as it was, it was still possible, it was easy to find a quality clinic near my home, and I felt well informed and supported in my decision by everyone from the receptionist to the doctors and nurses that took such good care of me.

As a white woman, I feel it is of the utmost importance to speak up about this experience and do what I can to advocate for anyone who does not enjoy the immense privilege that I do in having the visibility, voice, and easy access to quality reproductive care that I do.

The reality is that women will have and seek abortions no matter what; whether they are legal or illegal, safe or unsafe, respectful or humiliating. The key difference is that when abortion is illegal and unsafe, women will risk their *lives* as they take personal responsibility to end a pregnancy they have decided they cannot continue. Forcing women to take such a risk by taking away their choice should be unfathomable.

Without control of her own body, a woman cannot participate fully in society as an equal member. Governments must respect an individual's right to make personal decisions and as such, respect women's reproductive rights—as a fundamental human right. Our ability to participate fully in society depends on it.

The unborn baby in the womb is the most vulnerable person in our society. We as a nation have allowed the safety of the womb to be turned into a potential tomb. How can we, who are safely out of the womb, allow others to be killed?

“All men are created equal.....endowed by their creator with.... rights.... life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

During an unexpected pregnancy, the mother needs emotional and tangible support. We should be focusing on programs to provide that.

There are two living people involved here. Both mother and baby. And both are important.

Nations have fallen by moral decay. “Where anything goes.....nothing remains.”

While we can distract from the taking of life with clever terminology and euphemisms, killing of a baby can never be justified.

March 8, 2022

Hon. Committee Members  
House Health & Insurance Committee  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

*Re: Support for HB22-1279: Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA): Concerning the codification of a person's fundamental right to make reproductive health-care decisions free from government interference*

Dear Chairwoman Lontine and Hon. Members of the Committee:

We are writing this letter on behalf of Metropolitan Ob/Gyn and Cobalt's Board and Medical Advisory Committee. Cobalt, founded in 1967, is a Colorado organization dedicated to fighting for systems, structures, and policies that protect reproductive rights and guarantee universal access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion.

Americans are currently facing the biggest threat to reproductive healthcare of the past 50 years. Texas's Senate Bill 8 has inspired multiple other states to introduce copycat legislation. With the Supreme Court poised to make a decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the case that could overturn *Roe v. Wade*, it has never been more critical that we protect abortion rights in Colorado.

Coloradans have shown time and time again that they overwhelmingly support access to abortion and reproductive health services. In fact, Colorado was the first state to decriminalize abortion - even before *Roe v. Wade* - in 1967. In 2008, 2010, and 2014 Coloradans overwhelmingly rejected harmful and dehumanizing amendments to the state Constitution that would have created "fetal personhood" and outlawed abortion in the state. And in the 2020 election, Coloradans voted across party and county lines to defeat Proposition 115!

Unfortunately, if *Roe* is weakened or overturned, Colorado state law does not expressly protect abortion. The Reproductive Health Equity Act will modernize Colorado policy to reflect our values and both affirm and protect every person's right to reproductive healthcare, including abortion.

As obstetrician/gynecologists, we know that abortion is an essential component of women's healthcare. Where abortion is illegal or highly restricted, women resort to unsafe means to end unwanted pregnancies. Today, approximately 21 million women around the world obtain unsafe, illegal abortions each year; complications from procedures are responsible for nearly 50,000 maternal deaths annually.

But this is more than a women's health issue; it is a civil and human rights issue. This is about health, dignity, racial justice, and economic justice; ensuring that everyone's reproductive rights are treated with dignity and respect no matter who they are, what insurance they have, or how much money they make.

As Coloradans, we have historically led the nation on this issue and it's time to enshrine this value in state law. Any restrictions or bans upon our reproductive freedoms are out of touch with the electorate and inconsistent with Colorado values of individual freedom, liberty, and self-

determination. Personal decision-making by women and their doctors should not be replaced by political ideology

Sincerely,

Kara Alexandrovic, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

Kelly Moore, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

Stephanie Owens, M.D. , F.A.C.O.G.

Written Testimony for  
HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act  
House Bill #1279

Shira Fishman, MD on behalf of myself

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Support of HB22-1279 to protect reproductive rights

As a perinatologist, I specialize in the care of high risk pregnancies. I believe reproductive decisions are medical decisions that should be made between a woman and her physician, not by politicians. HB1279 ensures that women continue to have this right to make a medical decision with their medical provider.

While many pregnancies proceed without incident, pregnancy is inherently a high risk condition for every woman. Any woman can develop pregnancy complications that put her health at risk.

Let me share with you just a few examples of such complications.

Scenario 1. A woman feels a gush of fluid at 16wk and is found to have broken her water. Previaible rupture of membranes puts this woman at risk for infection and bleeding which might then require surgical removal of her uterus, depriving her of future childbearing. Infection and bleeding could also become so severe that it threatens this woman's life. Why should this woman have to wait until her reproductive future or her life is hanging in the balance to choose not to continue with such a pregnancy?

Scenario 2. The 20 week ultrasound. This is a highly anticipated exam for many women when all parts of the anatomy of the fetus are evaluated.

Think of the woman who learns then that her fetus has no kidneys, and regardless of how long she continues the pregnancy, and despite the best medical care, this abnormality is not compatible with survival after delivery.

Or consider another woman who learns that there is a defect in the skull of the fetus and the brain is completely abnormal with brain tissue that protrudes outside the skull through that defect. A child born with such abnormalities will have profound developmental delays and will likely not be able to walk or talk or have any independence.

Or what about the woman who learns that all the bones of the fetus are very short and brittle with fractures and that this fetus has a skeletal dysplasia that will result in painful fractures with the slightest activity if survival is even possible.

Or what about the woman who learns that there is severe growth restriction at that 20 week ultrasound; her fetus is measuring 4weeks behind with abnormal blood flow in the umbilical cord and no amniotic fluid, all signs of a very poorly functioning placenta with a very high chance of stillbirth.

These are only a few of many possible devastating findings. Some may have more grey and others may be more black and white. But those discussions and considerations should be the

purview of my patients and me, not the government. A woman should be able to decide with her doctor whether or not to continue with a pregnancy.

And these are only a tiny fraction of the considerations women may face. There is a huge mental health crisis in this country, and mental health has profound effects on pregnancy outcomes.

High c-section rates have led to higher rates of invasive placentas, placentas that grow into and sometimes through the lining of the uterus and place the woman at tremendous risk of bleeding.

There is no way to create an exhaustive list of pregnancy considerations. HB22-1279 provides essential protections to allow a woman and her doctor to evaluate her situation and determine what is best for each woman. Please provide women this essential protection and support HB22-1279.

Thank you.

Dear Committee Members,

Please allow me to get right to the point by conveying a story. A true story. I am writing to you ready to admit I used to be on the fence about the issue of abortion and a women's right to choose. In my professional career I worked for many years at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission fighting for women's rights in the workplace - the right for equal pay, the right to be treated with dignity and respect - free of sexual harassment, the right not to be discriminated against due to pregnancy. I could see the pros and cons on both sides of the issue, trusting that women should make that decision whether or not to abort as one between themselves and God. That was until December 9, 2004.

On that day my wife, Gail had her third miscarriage. Her previous two were early in her pregnancy. This one though was at 17 weeks gestation. On that day she delivered our son, Simon. The nurse placed Simon in our hands. We could plainly see his face, his arms, his legs, his entire body and I knew at that moment - my eyes could not be deceived - this was a human - this was a person!

My view of abortion changed that day because I was face to face with my own son - a human life cut short through the tragedy of miscarriage. How could I not now truly understand that this little one, this innocent little one, and all little ones just like him should be protected from having their lives cut short by abortion. What Gail and I held in our hands that day was a human being not some lump of tissue, a dehumanized fetus. It did not matter whether he would have been viable outside the womb as the Supreme Court artificially distinguished in *Roe v. Wade*. In the legal world we call that a legal fiction created to justify a legal outcome the court wants to reach. This was our son, made in the image and likeness of God just as every one of us are. Please preserve and uphold the dignity of human life and oppose the Reproductive Health Equity Act.

In the interest of full transparency I am an ordained Roman Catholic Deacon. However, I write today as a concerned citizen and constituent. This is not a religious issue, nor even a partisan political issue. The unfettered right to life from conception to natural death is a fundamental human right. With all due respect I ask you to please consider the ramifications of this bill in that light - the light of a fundamental human right to live.

Many Blessings,  
Dave Simonton

I write to you to ask you to vote no on HB22-1279.

It seems that the pattern across history has been for the powerful to oppress those who are weaker, those who are vulnerable. The powerful have an agenda and they are not concerned about the rights and wellbeing of those in their way. We saw it in many countries as the colonizers did not care for lives of the native people, including our own country. We saw it with the Nazis killing millions of Jewish people. We saw it with slavery and inhumane treatment of black people—and we are still seeing it today. We see it happening in Afghanistan as women and children are regarded as lesser. In these cases and the many others, the powerful did not see the oppressed as fully human. They regarded them as deserving lesser or no rights.

And this is the story of abortion; the powerful are killing the weak and vulnerable unborn children. They cannot fight back. They cannot speak for themselves. Yet we have decided that they are not fully human because of their reliance upon another individual.

We know that freedom and rights can only be maintained to the point where it does not take away the freedom of another. If the rights of a woman are dependent upon taking away the unborn baby's right to life, these rights are misled.

I know that pregnancy and possible parenting poses physical, emotional, and financial burdens. I desire for woman in crisis to be supported and cared for, to feel empowered to choose to parent or give the child up for adoption. We need to have more programs and groups working to support these women. We must recognize that both women and these babies need to be cared for.

Not recognizing all human life as valuable has brought grave consequences in this world, in our country, and in our own communities. From this side of history, we can see how wrong this inhumane treatment of people in years past has been. May you see today, before it is too late, the wrongness of abortion. Please vote NO on HB22-1279.

*Deliver those who are being taken away to death,  
And those who are staggering to slaughter,  
Oh hold them back.  
If you say, "See, we did not know this,"  
Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts?  
And does He not know it who keeps your soul?  
And will He not render to man according to his work?*

*Proverbs 24:11-12*

March 8, 2022

I would like to speak against and ask that you do not pass this destructive bill, HB22-1279, that takes innocent lives. There is no place for such an idea that the right to take a human life is a legal right to be codified as a fundamental right free from interference from Government.

In the bill it states that a fetus or embryo does not have independent or derived rights, yet there are numerous other examples of laws where a fetus does have rights, such as in cases where a pregnant mother is killed and two deaths are charged, or that preborns are entitled to due process of inheritance and property rights upon death of a parent(s) and should be shared equally with already born siblings. Those are Supreme Court decisions, you can't have it both ways, either the pre-born has rights or it doesn't. Human rights are encapsulated in the concept of personhood. A person is one who has personhood and therefore human rights. A fetus is a person from conception and therefore their human rights should be protected. Abortion doctors know that that fetus is a person as they put all the parts back together to make sure they got them all out after vacuum suction.

In section B & C it states that people should be able to decide when to have children and have rights to contraceptive health. I agree, but that should not include killing an innocent child, decisions to not get pregnant should happen prior to that. Once conception occurs, we now have a human life. Why would it be illegal to kill another human being, but not one in the womb? Absurd!

Abortion is always sold as reproductive health, but there is nothing healthy about having an abortion and killing a child. With all the technology and 3D & 4D ultrasounds we have, it is absurd to continue to say that a fetus is not a human being and that it is a choice. Upon conception everything about that baby has been determined, hair, skin, & eye color, sex, height, blood type, etc. All chromosomes are there. The heart is beating before the mother even knows she is pregnant. Abortion hurts women and men. Many women are suffering emotional and physical effects of their abortion(s).

The bill also mentions underserved and underprivileged groups having access to reproductive health. There are no groups more hurt or affected by abortion than those groups.

We must reject killing for convenience sake and to solve our social problems. Please reject this bill. Thank you for your time.

Cindy Starr

Grand Junction

## SUBMITTED IN OPPOSITION TO HB22-1279: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EQUITY ACT

We are submitting this written testimony to voice our opposition to HB22-1279. As Christians we are appalled that this bill would allow abortions up until the minute of birth. This is akin to murder in our view. Other aspects of the bill do show respect for the unborn. In the 2020 election, 1.3 million Coloradans [41% of those voting] voted in favor of Proposition 115 banning abortions after 22 weeks of gestation. As two of the 1.3 million voting for the sanctity of life, we want our voices heard at the ballot box not rushed through the legislature as HB22-1279 appears to be.

It is a shameful day for Colorado and their citizens [as well as the unborn] that this bill is even being considered.

Respectfully Submitted,

Veronica and Jeffrey Ehrenzeller

My name is Mike Antonacci and I'm a member of Democrats for Life.

This bill is an example of a familiar story – a powerful and wealthy special interest group wants to stay powerful and wealthy. So, they write a bill.

Big Pharma did it, Big Tobacco did it, now Big Abortion is doing it. This is a debate not about healthcare or about choice, but about money.

Big Tobacco used their money and PR to convince so many people that smoking was harmless. They knew otherwise – but that would've cost them money. And deep down, it was all about money.

Like Big Tobacco, Big Abortion has deep pockets and impressive PR. Their PR is **so** effective, they've managed to frame the entire debate to their liking – to the point where if you oppose Big Abortion, you get labeled as someone who hates women's health.

I can only think of one PR campaign that was more effective – diamond company DeBeers convincing the world that you needed to spend two months' salary on a diamond engagement ring, an idea that didn't exist until they ran ads for it.

In spite of their impressive PR, Big Abortion is all about money, even if they've tried to convince you otherwise.

The exact amount of money Big Abortion stands to lose is something they are not willing to disclose. But we do have a good source who can help us out – the president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, who, in 2015, testified under oath before Congress.

She disclosed that 86% of Planned Parenthood's nongovernment revenue comes from abortions. Fact check website PolitiFact noted that the key phrase was "nongovernment revenue", which is **not** the same as total revenue. So, PolitiFact took the original 86% and accounted for donations and government revenue, coming to an estimate of 20%.<sup>1</sup> 20% of Planned Parenthood's total revenue comes from abortions.

20% is a lot of money. If you stood to lose 20% of your money, you'd fight it. You'd probably even contact your legislators – just like Big Abortion did with this bill and others like it.

But you can't outright tell people it's about money. So you might tell them it's about healthcare and use your power and PR to convince people – just like Big Tobacco. You might tell them it's about choice – just like Big Tobacco.

This is a story we've heard before – a powerful and wealthy special interest group wants this bill the pass so they can stay powerful and wealthy. The part of being a Democrat that's most important to me is standing up to special interest groups like this, to fight for the little guy.

This time, the story can end differently – please vote No on this bill.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2015/oct/05/dana-loesch/Planned-parenthood-86-percent-abortion-revenue/>

March 8, 2022

HB22-1279

In my opinion, as a Constituent of the State of Colorado, three women suggesting that a tiny INNOCENT Baby should be brutally murdered under this 49 year inquest **are insane.**

Who in their right mind would slaughter their next customer? Does this make sense to you?

April 16, 1987 at 3:39 PM I was on their table with my legs spread as they, Planned Parenthood, sucked the life out of my Precious INNOCENT Baby Melissa Lilly Grace and then they sucked the life out of me and threw me to the gutter.

The State of Colorado owes me for damages. I was awake. Imagine living with the fact that you MURDERED your own Baby who would be 35 years old this November 4, 2022.

The criminal mind thinks Abortion (aka MURDER of these INNOCENT Babies) is fine. Therefore the only thing that will change your mind is Almighty God. Then if you think there is no God – point to the Son (sun) and say that...then if you're not convinced read The Revelation in your Bible.

From personal experience – Jesus Christ had to convince me that **murdering** a Baby is not just; but unjust. You might as well take the flag and rip into shreds, the

Constitution through your shredder, the Bible through your diagnostic analysis of right and wrong.

Where did we come from if not our Mother's Womb?

Please don't tell me that you believe we came from Ape's, that your own Mother and Father didn't have sexual intercourse and that is why you aren't really here yourself.

The Bible says, "Thou shalt not murder."

Now, if you don't believe what Jesus says – this makes you an unbeliever. Do you understand where people go that don't put their faith in Jesus Christ?

Hell. Their Soul is in Eternal Hell for Eternity.

I'm guessing this letter is more for you than the Baby – as they suck, and pull, and mutilate, and tear, and rip, and saw, and mutilate that Precious Baby their Soul goes to Abraham's Bosom in Paradise Immediately – 66 million times and counting.

Where is your Soul going to go? The Bible says, "It is appointed." Every Soul is going to go to Heaven or torturous Hell. The Torture you pro-death people put to the Baby is nothing compared to the torture of an Eternal Hell.

You might want to consider yourself in this equation. Put aside the torture on the Precious Baby – think about the torture as Jesus Christ asks you the question. "Why did you feel and think it necessary to MURDER an innocent Baby – what will you answer?"

Thank you,

Susan.

Dear Members of the House Health & Insurance Committee:

On behalf of Rose Community Foundation, I write to express our support for the Reproductive Health Equity Act (House Bill 22-1279) and respectfully encourage members of the committee to vote in favor.

As a community foundation representing and investing in the seven-county Greater Denver region, we work closely with a wide range of nonprofits that are on the ground serving people and communities furthest from opportunity. Over a dozen of these nonprofit partners, which work on behalf of those most disadvantaged by restrictions to health care, have stated loudly and clearly that codifying access to reproductive health care is essential to ensuring equitable outcomes for *all* Colorado families.

We support the Reproductive Health Equity Act because all Coloradans should have the right to make their own decisions about the health, wellbeing and economic security of themselves and their families. Individuals' access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care services and options – including whether to get an abortion – is key to ensuring equitable health outcomes. Restrictions on abortion care fall hardest on those who already are most impacted by inequitable systems in health and elsewhere: people of color, low-income individuals, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants and young people.

Access to reproductive health care and family planning services is directly linked to better educational opportunities and economic security. Lack of access to abortion care can also lead to dire health consequences and is associated with increased rates of maternal mortality. The data is clear: We cannot achieve health equity in Colorado without codifying abortion rights.

Rose Community Foundation supports all Coloradans' access to the full range of reproductive health information, care and rights, and we believe that individuals have the fundamental right to decide to have or not have children, free from stigma. With the U.S. Supreme Court scheduled to consider direct challenges to *Roe v. Wade* this year, it has never been more urgent to formalize access to safe and legal abortions in Colorado. We are grateful to live in a state that has long affirmed women's reproductive rights, but given the national context, putting these safeguards into statute is vitally important. We proudly join our partners in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors, along with service providers and directly impacted individuals, who are committed to protecting reproductive health access and equity in Colorado.

Lindy Eichenbaum Lent  
President and CEO, Rose Community Foundation

Good afternoon,

I am very concerned about HB22-1279. I would like you to vote it down and demand your colleagues to do the same. Human life begins at conception, and this bill equates to murder of human life.

*I would like you to know that I practice what I preach.* I understand the fear that propels a woman to feel that abortion is her "only" choice. Let me explain. My first labor and delivery of my eldest daughter was very traumatic and scary. After we had my daughter, my husband and I decided that we would not have any more biological children, because we feared that the next child birth would kill me. My husband received a vasectomy, and we were told that there was a <1% chance that we would get pregnant again.

Imagine my surprise in Feb 2020, just as the pandemic was kicking off, to learn I was pregnant again! Let me tell you the fear and hopelessness I felt was tremendous. I went to my first OB/GYN appt and explained why I was so scared to be pregnant again. Everyone from the ultrasound tech to the doctor offered me an abortion as the "solution" to my problem. I explained that I was pro-life, and that my child didn't deserve death just because I might die.

I received counseling for the PTSD the first delivery caused me, and I did a wonderful Bible study called Armor of God, which helped me to come to terms with a second delivery (no matter what that delivery was going to entail). I placed my trust in God that He ordained this child, and that no matter the outcome, He would get me through it or take me home to be with Him in Heaven.

My scheduled c-section was set for Oct 12, 2020. My Dad, who was my best friend, died unexpectedly Aug 11, 2020. I cannot begin to describe the loss of the most important man in my entire life. He was the most good natured guy, almost always happy, with the most beautiful dark blue eyes you ever saw.

Oct 12, 2020 arrives, and the scheduled c-section begins. Everything goes very well, and I deliver my beautiful baby girl, who is healthy. My recovery was quick. That's all I can ask for, right? Well let me tell you what God did with that little girl. He gave me the most good natured, almost always happy baby, with the most beautiful dark blue eyes you ever saw....just like her Grandpa's. She was our light in the darkest year of my life.

I wrote you this to let you know: God doesn't make mistakes. A baby is a blessing, and when you allow God to direct your path in life, He ALWAYS knows best. HB22-1279 is evil, and you have the power to stop it. Thank you for standing up for humans, and their right to life!

Sincerely,

JoLyn Sullivan Dolan

To the Colorado Assembly House Health and Insurance Committee regarding HB22-1279:

Thank you for your attention to my testimony regarding HB22-1279. I would ask that you consider the following before voting on this bill.

1. Any legislation that restricts the right of citizens to express ideas through speech is an infringement on citizens' rights as protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution – For any state bill to restrict an individual's right to discuss an abortion procedure is extremism and fanaticism. For the state to interfere in a discussion between a parent and an under-age child regarding an abortion procedure is an over-reach of the state's authority. A 15-year old girl is not old enough to have a permanent driver's license according to the law. A 16-year old girl is not old enough to vote according to the law. But, the Colorado State Assembly believes that a young woman has the emotional maturity – while also under distress – to make a decision on an abortion without parental input? How is that not extremism? How is that not an invasion of a family's privacy?
2. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution also protects the right to assembly and group protest. If those of us who believe that abortion is taking a life, we have a right to protest, to gather and pray, to exercise our right to speak openly about those beliefs. For the state government to restrict that right is unconstitutional – for a reason. Part of the definition of fascism is the suppression of opposition and criticism. If a state government can override the rights of Colorado citizens under the federal constitution, we are mere steps from tyranny. Think of the precedent you set for those you disagree with, if nothing else....
3. For those of us who believe that all life is a sacred gift from God, our First Amendment rights also include the right to religious beliefs and practices. To use public funds for abortion is an infringement on religious beliefs and practices. We pay taxes or face punishment, but those funds can be used for what we believe is murder? There is scientific evidence to support the existence of life in the womb. Science is objective. Whether you agree with it or not is opinion, thus subjective. To force the views of some on all is tyranny.
4. It is ignorant to assume that abortion does not have negative effects on women as well. To consider yourselves informed on the issue, I recommend the following from nih.gov. Please consider reading it: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6207970/>

Again, thank you for your time. I encourage you to consider the rights of Colorado citizens as afforded under the U.S. Constitution. The First Amendment was intended specifically for when people disagree. To use the law to circumvent the First Amendment is not democracy. It is an irresponsible use of power.

For as long as I can remember, I have always known that I wanted to be a midwife. I was fascinated by the swollen bellies of pregnant women and the glittery eyes of babies, I wanted to be a part of it in any way I could. My beliefs went through many renaissances but my passion never faltered. Part of working in women's healthcare is understanding that pregnancy doesn't always end in a healthy baby regardless of the choices a woman makes. A midwife works with women before babies.

When I was 14, I was convinced that I was pregnant. An older boy had told me we shouldn't use a condom and because I didn't want to upset him, I agreed. I nervously watched my period tracker app count down the days, tearing pieces of cartoon paper away from a cartoon calendar, it all felt very silly. Thankfully I wasn't pregnant and I thought to myself, good now I can get on with my life and I don't need to tell anyone because I figured it out all on my own! Ridiculous, right? Hearing it now, it's never been more clear that I was a scared child.

I finally told someone about my experience a year later and I was taken to have STI testing and talk about being put on birth control, it was the first time since feeling scared to say no to that older boy that I felt truly in control of my health. It's important to me that all women are afforded the peace of mind I didn't have. Had I known my right to an abortion would have been promised, not posed with a question mark, I may not have toiled over my fate for so long. Every 14-year-old girl deserves to dream big, and rest assured that her young life is in her control. I want to be able to provide the comfort I received, and part of that is letting women know that their health and comfort come before anyone else's.

It is well known that in order to enable young men, often still teenagers, to kill another person, must first be brought to see their future victims as less than human. To this end, they use, and are trained to use, depersonalizing names and terms to refer to them. Witness the use of terms like “Gerry”, “Japs”, “slants”, and “gooks” from previous American wars, and America is certainly not alone here. It’s OK to kill them ‘cause they’re “just a gook”.

The terms “Fertilized Egg”, “Embryo”, “fetus”, and many others have a history of use as appropriate descriptive terms for various early stages of human development. The anthropologically revisionist left, however, uses them differently. It uses them as the same type of depersonalizing words that enable soldiers to kill enemies who are in fact people. It’s OK to kill it; it’s just an egg, or just a fetus. It’s NOT a human being.

This notion is at the heart, the guts, of this bill. It is seen by anyone with eyes to see, to be not only erroneous, but wicked.

I read several years ago that all seven embryology textbooks then in use in American medical schools agree that the life of each human being (indeed of any individual of a species that reproduces sexually) begins at fertilization, in the quarter of a second it takes, from the time the father’s sperm penetrates the mother’s ovum until the DNA strands of the two gametes intertwine. The resulting single cell, which rapidly becomes a multicellular organism, is undeniably human.

Therefore denying the humanity of the unborn necessarily involves “denying science”; simple observational science, in particular. Biologists, scientists, understand, they know what life *is*; the criteria for being considered a living organism. These “fertilized eggs”, these “embryos”, these “fetuses” meet that criteria. They are living organisms and no honest scientist, or perhaps more to the point, “science acceptor” can deny that. We don’t actually *need* the knowledge of genetics, of DNA and cytology (biology of cells) to tell us that; it’s been observable for as long as the stages of development have been observable, but that science does *in fact* tell us that, anyway.

The humanity of the unborn *really is* the issue. And for most people, once they are confronted with that undeniable humanity, their conscience tells them what they can and cannot do. This is why as high as seventy-five percent of abortion-minded pregnant women, upon seeing an ultrasound image of the baby in their womb, choose to not abort it. The impact and import of its humanity registers clearly with them, and their conscience will not allow them to go through with it.

Conduct the following experiment: find a midwifery practice in the most “liberal”, left-leaning part of town there is. Go there and just sit in the lobby or waiting area and listen to the conversations of pregnant women waiting for appointments, most of whom will be strong “abortion rights” supporters. What you’re listening for are the terms with which they refer to the living creature growing inside of them. Betcha serious money that, absent the conscious contrivance that might result from an awareness of the experiment underway, they will not be referring to that which they are carrying as a

“fetus”, or an “embryo”, or any other clinical terms that refer to stages of development. No, they will be referring to them with ordinary, everyday terms of humanization and personalization, like “baby” and “child”.

Why not the depersonalizing terms? The answer is obvious: these pregnant women “get” the same thing that the ultrasound viewers “got”: the humanity of their unborn child, and the corresponding value of its life, and therefore the implications of that truth for how they must, and must not, behave towards it.

Now the thing to notice is that the difference in terminology is completely determined by the mother’s attitude towards it. Those who want to have a child, a baby, use the humanizing terms; those who don’t use the depersonalizing terms. The depersonalizing terms are intended, and function, to justify the killing involved, like the soldiers noted above. The woman who doesn’t want her baby killed *can’t* use them; the knowledge of its humanity, and consequently the inherent, intrinsic value of its life, restrains her.

So is it possible that its mother’s attitude and desires, toward it changes what that human being *is*? That’s absurd.

And this is why the “left” on this issue *absolutely cannot allow* even the slightest acknowledgement of this essential humanity. No crack of light can be let in. Because if it is acknowledged, then it’s game over. The implications of the intrinsic value of a human life will come into play, and the decisions will be very different.

This bill is a classic example of this stubborn unwillingness to acknowledge fundamental truths (backed up by science, but by no means *requiring* science). And that is the root problem with it, and the powerful reason for its resounding rejection.

The true struggle for justice, for peace, for human rights begins with the acknowledgment of the very thing this bill denies: the humanity of every individual from the moment they are “configured” (physically, biologically) as a living human being, which IS the beginning of their life.

Mention is often made of “being on the right (or wrong) side of history”. Please consider that history has not, in fact, looked kindly on those who considered real human beings to be the disposable property of others. Viewing the undeniably human creature, the baby, the child growing in its mother’s womb as disposable property, even of its mother, will not be granted an exception by “history”. History will not applaud.

## Written Testimony

Dear Representatives,

**Please OPPOSE HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act.** The people of Colorado do not want to live in the most radical abortion state in the country. This bill could make Colorado an abortion destination. It ignores the voices of millions of Coloradoans who support protecting unborn children who can viably live outside the womb and over 2 million families waiting to adopt these healthy children. It contains no limitations on infanticide or late term abortion. In their haste to slide this bill through the legislature, the sponsors failed to include any regulation of abortion facilities to protect women against thousands of botched abortions each year. This bill further facilitates the perpetrators of the billion-dollar sex-trafficking industry in Colorado by eliminating any protection for these young victims. This bill does not reflect us. **Please OPPOSE HB22-1279.**

I urge you to vote NO on HB 1279.

I would like to share a personal testimony related to my experience with an abortion. When I was 23 I became pregnant and was led by my doctor to have an abortion. I was told that it would be quick and easy and that I would be back on my feet in a few days. That decision changed my life. For more than 15 years I struggled with dark thoughts, depression, and confusion. Why did I feel so sad inside? It wasn't until I went to a professional counselor 15 years after the abortion that I understood why I had felt such sadness. After many sessions I finally told her about the abortion, and she shared with me words that changed my life. She said, "You aren't just a woman who had an abortion, you are a mother who has been grieving the loss of your child." With these words I was finally able to begin the healing process.

When a woman is pregnant her body does everything possible to hold onto that baby so when a doctor literally rips that baby from her womb her hormones, heart and mind react and know that something is wrong. Abortion is wrong. It not only takes the life of an innocent baby, but it destroys the lives of unsuspecting women who think that it is an easy option. In our country, there are more than 50 million post-abortive women and very few of them every find healing after their abortions. This isn't because they don't want it, it is because they don't know what is causing their pain and those who do realize it are too ashamed to tell anyone.

Let me also, speak to another aspect of abortion. I realize that not all pregnancies come about from easy situations. I have met women who were abused and even raped and became pregnant. But even in these horribly devastating cases, abortion adds another deep injury and hurt to an already horrible situation. Abortion doesn't make anything go away; it adds another layer of pain.

Today, I am a pro-life speaker. Whenever I share my story, women often come up to me after in tears and quietly share their stories. Most have never shared their secret with anyone. In fact, I met one elderly woman who had held her secret of abortion inside her heart telling nobody for more than 50 years. Abortion is not good for women.

Your job as our representatives is to protect the people you serve. I urge you to protect women from this horrible procedure and protect our sweet babies. You must listen to those of us who know the truth of abortion not those who haven't experienced it. I urge you to vote NO on this bill.

Good afternoon, Chair Lontine, Vice Chair Ortiz, and members of the House Health and Insurance Committee. My name is Marlee Breakstone and I am here today on behalf of Catholics for Choice to urge you to support HB22-1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act. Catholics for Choice serves as a voice for the majority of the over 70 million Catholics in the United States — including over 842,000 Catholics in Colorado — who support abortion rights and access because of their faith, not in spite of it.

Colorado Catholics agree with most Americans who want healthcare decisions to be made by patients rather than politicians, according to their own consciences and in consultation with medical professionals and whomever else they choose. Ultimately, one in four abortion patients in this country is Catholic, and for many of them, access to equitable, compassionate abortion care is a blessing.

It is crucial that all Coloradans are able to access the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, including contraception and abortion, so that they can live full and healthy lives. Catholics are compelled to fight for reproductive health, rights, and justice for all because they believe deeply in the values of dignity, compassion, and justice.

This bill goes beyond addressing the fundamental right to comprehensive reproductive healthcare by working to ensure that every Coloradan can access the care that they decide is right for them with dignity and respect no matter who they are, what identities they hold, what insurance they have, or how much money they make. It would codify into law what the majority of Colorado Catholics believe — that every individual has a fundamental right to access the full range of reproductive healthcare according to their own consciences and beliefs.

Abortion access is under threat across the country, and this summer, the Supreme Court is expected to overturn *Roe*, allowing 26 states to ban abortion entirely and

jeopardizing access for nearly half the country. Colorado was the first state to decriminalize abortion in 1967 and now needs to uphold its legacy of moral leadership to ensure the right to abortion is protected. Advancing the Reproductive Health Equity Act presents a historic opportunity to do the right thing by proactively enshrining guaranteed abortion access into law statewide.

Given the nationwide abortion access crisis, now is the time for lawmakers to pass policies, including HB22-1279, that affirm the dignity of all of their constituents by allowing them to follow their consciences and get the care they want and need. Thank you, and I urge you to support HB22-1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act.

## **Right to Life**

My name is Brian Thompson, I am the Pastor of Purpose Church in Firestone, CO. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My fellow Coloradans and the House of Representatives, please consider: When does a human being become a human being? When one is desired? When does a person stop being a human being? When they are not desired or wanted? If anyone has the right and the power to call a human being, not a human being, where does that power end? If you strip the unborn of their rights as human beings through a bill such as HB 22-1279, who will be next? - Those that society deems are not worthy to be called human. This bill is nothing short of all-out war on the most innocent and vulnerable of people! Currently, the world looks on with horror as the inhabitants of Ukraine are pummeled by the Russian juggernaut fueled by Putin's fury. Where is the concern for the rights of those whose lives would end in the war waged against inhabitants of the human womb? Those who crafted this bill, and those who would support it, are the Putin's of our state, seeking to destroy innocent life at their prerogative. Those who support such a bill, do so to their everlasting harm, and to the harm of human rights not just in our state, but anywhere the message of this bill might go forth with its murderous intent. We have heard so much of late about which lives matter. Human lives matter... no matter their color, race, creed, religion, or condition. This is human rights 101!

Do not support this bill. To support this bill is to become complicit with the murder of the least of these, the most vulnerable and fragile of our society, those indeed who do not have a voice of their own, as yet. May the everlasting Judge of all the earth, Almighty God, requite those who support this bill and its intent, according to their work and according to the evil of their practices. Because they do not regard the works of the LORD nor the deeds of His hands, He will tear them down and not build them up. If anyone supports this bill, they do so at the detriment of their everlasting soul, and to the detriment of our state. I implore you, instead, to support the rights of all humans, the born, the young, the old, the infirm, and yes, the unborn. Humans are humans at every stage of development, regardless of what they offer to our society, or whether they are desired. Who should rid them of their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?!

This bill is tacitly evil and Unamerican. It is a crime against humanity - equivalent to the war in Ukraine today. Just as surely as the Russian invasion is a crime against the inhabitants of Ukraine, so also is HB 22-1279 a crime against the innocent! Just as surely as Ukrainians need our support and prayers, so also do the unborn who are in the sights of those who would rid them of their rights and take their lives without cause! Vote this intended, horrific crime against humanity down! This is your civic duty, even your duty as a fellow human being. The people of Colorado are watching, but more importantly, so is Almighty God who gives life. Who are we to take it?! Thank you.



## Colorado General Assembly

HB22-1279

# Reproductive Health Equity Act

Hello, my name is Kameron Bain. Thank you for your time and acknowledging my right to be heard on HB22-1279. I am a member of Emmaus Road Reformed Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, and I am an ambassador of Jesus Christ. I am testifying today in objection to HB22-1279.

I believe that there is simply no right, authority, or justification (either from our Constitution [state or federal] or from God) that would allow people the freedom to murder their children. We can look back at societies like the Mayans and gasp in disgust about the human sacrifice they were involved in. We also, as a society, can look at tribal people that participate in cannibalism and instinctively agree that there is a violation of human dignity and right when these actions and practices are allowed or even encouraged. I declare to you today that abortion is yet another practice that goes against the very objective reality of the dignity and respect human life intrinsically demands. For this reason I must ask the panel to consider rejecting this bill.

I also would like to mention that state and federal laws have always been implemented with reservation about how they would restrict personal freedoms/liberties as well as ensuring that the state/federal entity has the authority to hold people accountable for their actions. As such, I would warn against the passing of this bill as the language restricts and reduces the state government from imposing restriction on its citizens as well as reducing the state's authority to hold its citizens accountable for actions the state laws would deem illegal.

I mention this as though the state may not have any laws against abortion but it does have laws against murder, theft, etc. If this bill is passed you could begin to see the erosion of authority that the state has to hold citizens accountable for breaking those laws and others.

Secondly, I believe that the objective reality of this bill is that citizens are looking to have the state acknowledge its limited authority to dictate or regulate the behavior and actions of its citizens. I believe this to be fundamentally wrong as the basis of government (both local or federal), is to help regulate and standardize the behavior of its citizens. A bill of this nature would further the cause of limiting the ability for government to hold its citizens accountable to the generally accepted behaviors and actions.

As such, I believe that the act of abortion is murder. Pregnancy (statistically) is caused by behavioral and lifestyle choices of promiscuity or premarital sex. Though we as a nation (and a state) no longer hold to many old fashioned lifestyles of waiting for marriage for sexual activity this by no means would indicate that we are in a state that the common man thinks killing a child due to the consequences of sexual behaviors is acceptable.

If this bill is about reproduction health then it should be focused on proactive choices such as better education about how pregnancy occurs, sexual health, the statistics of sexually transmitted diseases, contraceptives (that prevent pregnancy) NOT ENDS ONE.

I implore you of the Assembly to truly consider the implications of this bill. I cannot support the bill as I have a strong stance against the murder of children (and murder in general). I believe for the state to do its job of protecting the right and safety of its citizens then this bill cannot be passed. As a believer in Jesus Christ I have a HIGH view of person-hood, the value of life, and morality. I believe that government should always help its citizens by ensuring the inalienable rights of its citizens are protected and acknowledged. The right to murder children (abortion) is not one of those rights.

I do believe that the decision to have children or not should be an individuals decision, however, I believe that decision should be reflected in their behaviors and actions and not be an after thought when faced with the very real reality of the consequences of sexual activity. That is not reproductive health. That is avoiding responsibility and accountability for the actions of that person. If we as a state allow this to be eroded now then where will such avoidance of consequences end? To what extent will the citizens of this state (or others) begin to demand that the government does not hold its citizens accountable for their individual actions. There is no subjective reality, we all share this state and contribute, in some way, to the society and culture. As such, we should consider what the role of government is and declare that individuals do not have the right to avoid the consequences of their



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## Colorado General Assembly

actions. It is contradictory to the role of our government. This assembly should consider more than the voices of the citizens. It should consider the health, welfare, and objective good that people need. Just as we make health conscience choices such as exercise, eating healthy, and not using drugs we should also expect our neighbors to do the same. This isn't about enforcing others to conform to a subjective idea of what is healthy or even morally right. It is about an objective reality that we all must live in this society and as such we should strive for it to be a morally upstanding, kind, and intentional community. We can no longer stand by as people wish to live in anarchy or avoid their actions. We cannot continue to support the wrong choices of our neighbors. We must hold a strong standard that demands the proper treatment of human life and demand an upright way of life.

I believe the only way to do such is to live according to God's word. Though some of you on the assembly may not agree with my beliefs. I am sure that most (if not all) would agree that our society should be just, kind, and intentional. We should live with purpose and make wise decisions not only for our own health but for the betterment of our fellow man. In this, we can find common ground and I implore you to consider rejecting HB22-1279. Thank you.

**\*NOTE-**

I acknowledge that some people feel these situations change when rape, incest, or health of the child or mother are involved. I would implore you to consider that it should change nothing. Ending an individual's life because of the actions of another HAS NEVER and SHOULD NEVER be the way the United States of America has ruled in its justice system.

Mr. Kameron Bain

Rebecca L. Kinder  
7487 S. Glencoe Ct.  
Centennial, CO 80122

March 8, 2022  
Re: HB22-1279

The Science is clear: Life begins at conception.

History is clear: Any culture that accepts the destruction of human life as a norm eventually destroys it on a far wider, unanticipated scale.

There is no reason abortion should be unlimited and every reason to limit it. There are already myriads of women who would give anything NOT to have chosen this "safe" option. The suicide rate among those who have been so "assisted" indicates so.

An open-ended bill such as HB22-1279 will cause massive harms to women and their families in years to come. I've witnessed the struggles brought on by the grief, guilt, nightmares and suicidal thoughts from this "right". Motherhood is hard enough without adding such complications. My friend was warned about how awful her baby would make her life. No one warned her how her heart would ache for it forever.

The abortion industry is too sheltered, far too protected to be safe for anyone. No other physicians are so exempted from scrutiny. At no time are children from ordinary homes so unprotected. It is impossible to hold this industry truly accountable for all the harm it has done because of legal obfuscations made possible by legislators who seem to care more about money than about those they wound with such policies.

Provisions to avoid discussion of this issue also underscore the weak arguments of those promoting it, and the Constitutionality of such tactics is highly questionable. If the arguments are sound, make them. If not, admit it. Gag orders are not the stuff of a democratic culture.

If you actually care about your constituents, about people, you will not forward this bill or any like it. Even if Roe is overturned, it will only kick the laws regarding abortion back to the states. If you anticipate a Red wave, don't expect it to subside after such a radical action. Such laws are meant to be repealed, and lawmakers promoting draconian policies must be voted out.

Please DO NOT move HB22-1279 beyond committee.

Respectfully,

Rebecca L Kinder

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

In opposition to House Bill 22-1279

To the House Health and Insurance Committee:

My name is Tyler Horiuchi, and I am writing this testimony in opposition to House Bill 22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act on the basis that this bill is a violation of human rights rather than a champion of them.

This bill makes the statement that “a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state.” This premise is based on the false presupposition that a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus is not a human being. The Bible, which is the inerrant and infallible Word of God, says that “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Gen. 1:27). In Psalm 139:13-16, we learn that God forms the inward parts of every person, knitting them together. What the psalmist concludes is that he, along with all people, has been “fearfully and wonderfully made” (v. 14). Scripture also speaks of God’s knowing people long before they are even born (cf. Jer. 1:5; Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:4). In accordance with Scripture then, we have to conclude that even at the moment of conception, that fertilized egg is reckoned as a human being. If that is the case, then a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus should possess rights as a human being, especially the right to live.

An earlier point made in this bill is that “a pregnant individual has a fundamental right... to have an abortion”. Part 4 of the bill defines abortion as “any medical procedure, instrument, agent, or drug used to terminate the pregnancy of an individual known or reasonably believed to be pregnant with an intention other than to increase the probability of a live birth.” The aim in abortion, according to this document, is to terminate a pregnancy, or in other words, to kill a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus—to kill a human being. The testimony of Scripture is clear as to the prohibition of murder or manslaughter (Gen. 9:5-6; Ex. 20:13), as well as United States law. A pregnant woman does not have the right to kill her unborn child, who is a human being.

Based on these two points, it is clear that this bill is a violation of human rights. I believe that all who hold office in our government have been installed by God to exercise justice and righteousness in the land (Rom. 13:1-7). I implore the committee to reject this bill, because it is in fact unjust, unrighteous, and an affront to the God of all creation. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

## HB122-1279

The critical point of HB22-1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, states “a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state.” Every person involved in presenting this bill was once all of these: a fertilized egg, embryo, and a fetus.

To support this bill is to negate every individual’s fundamental right to exist. The moment a human egg is fertilized, a complete and unique person is created. It is horrifying and appalling that anyone believes they have the right to deny another human the right to exist.

Many of those who’ve testified in support of the bill have argued that having an abortion helped them succeed in life. They were able to pursue their education, build economic stability for their future family, become the person they were meant to be. How did they accomplish these goals? They ended the life of their own child—a child who never got those same opportunities because of the selfishness of another.

Those in support of this bill claim that it is intended to provide equity in health care, especially for those in the black community. Nothing could be further from the truth. This bill will irreparably harm not only the black community but every community. To state that a human does not have independent or derivative rights at any stage of development strips our government of its very purpose. To use racially charged arguments in support of this bill is divisive and unfair to the very community it portends to protect.

According to the World Economic Forum, “The oldest and simplest justification for government is as protector: protecting citizens from violence.” I can think of nothing more violent than killing a person at one of the most vulnerable times in their life. A government that condones this type of violence negates its very purpose.

If this bill were truly about providing equity in health care, it would not so blatantly attempt to strip the rights of the newest members of our society. It would instead give protection to those who need it the most.

I urge you to vote “no” on HB122-1279 and protect all the citizens you have vowed to represent.

Date: March 9th, 2022

Time: 1:30 PM

House Bill 22-1279 - Reproductive Health Equity Act

Colorado General Assembly  
200 E Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Madam Chair Susan Lontine, Vice Chair David Ortiz, and all members of the House Health and Insurance Committee,

My name is Henry Donahue. I am testifying on behalf of myself against House Bill 22-1279, which would grant fundamental rights to individuals pertaining to the use of contraception, grant pregnant individuals the fundamental right to abortion, and prohibit a fertilized egg(s), embryo(s), and fetus(es) independent and derivative rights.

Allow me to propose a hypothetical situation. Imagine a newborn, born just five minutes ago, being cradled by their mother. Now imagine shoving a pair of scissors into the back of their head. That, according to Colorado Revised Statutes Section 18-3-103, is second degree murder. Now replace that newborn with an unborn baby. According to the bill that is currently being discussed, you would have the right to replicate the scene I just described, as long as the baby is in the womb, with no punishment whatsoever.

The law that I mentioned previously, Colorado Revised Statutes Section 18-3-103, states that "A person commits the crime of murder in the second degree if the person knowingly causes the death of a person." You might argue that a fetus is not a person. However, science says otherwise. In 1981, Micheline Matthews-Ross, at the time a professor at Harvard University Medical School, testified before a Senate Judiciary Committee. She stated that "It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception... and that this developing human always is a member of our species in all stages of life" The Colorado Legislature seems to be anti-science, specifically when it comes to the basics of human reproduction. It is sad when I, a sixteen year old high school student, can recognize this, but fully grown adults cannot.

I guess science only matters when you want to wield your power over the citizens of the state whose constitution you swore to protect. By passing this law, you are not only violating your oath to the people of Colorado, but you are also complicit in 2,363 murders each day. I highly doubt that you want to kill the innovators, peacemakers, and world-changers of tomorrow.

If, despite the pleas of your constituents, you decide to pass this bill, know that there is no mercy for child murderers at the pearly gates. The blood of innocent people will be on your hands.

Sincerely,  
Henry Donahue

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

In opposition of House Bill 22-1279

To the House Health and Insurance Committee

My name is Mariah Horiuchi, a concerned citizen of Colorado, and I am testifying in opposition to House Bill 22-1279.

This bill states that “a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of the state.” Why shouldn’t the fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus have rights? He or she is a human being made in the image of God, and is as equally deserving of legal protection as any other human being. We know that he or she is human, not only because science clearly supports that fact (the fertilized egg/embryo/fetus is alive and has human DNA distinct from that of his/her mother), but also because the word of God testifies to this. God has knitted every person together in their mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13), and they are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14) because they are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). It is because human beings are made in the image of their Creator that they have inherent dignity, value, and worth, and thus certain rights, distinct from the rest of creation. That is why humans outside of the womb are recognized to have certain inalienable rights in this country, and those rights should be extended to humans inside the womb as well.

In light of the fact that a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus is in fact a human being, the statement in this bill that “a pregnant individual has a fundamental right... to have an abortion” is an absurdity. An individual’s rights cannot infringe upon those of another. For this reason, murder is illegal, as abortion should be.

I gave birth to my first child three and a half weeks ago. Looking at him now, it is appalling to think that anyone would have considered it my “fundamental right” only four weeks ago to have him killed for any reason. He was just as human inside of me four weeks ago (and nine months ago) as he is today. Abortion is not “reproductive health care” - it is murder. For that reason, I strongly oppose this bill, and hope others will see that abortion is a violation of the rights of babies in the womb, and a grievous offense against their Creator.

**Testimony on HB 1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act**  
**Colorado House Health and Insurance Committee**  
**Hon. Karen S. Middleton, Cobalt**  
**March 9, 2022**

Good Afternoon.

I am testifying in person but will provide a shorter presentation given the time limit. This is my full testimony.

My name is Karen Middleton, and I am President of Cobalt, the statewide abortion rights and advocacy organization here in Colorado.

I am testifying in support of the Reproductive Health Equity Act because quite simply we are at a crisis point in access to abortion care, and we need to put access to abortion and contraception in Colorado law. Although Colorado does not have many of the politically driven restrictions we've seen in other states, we don't have anything expressly protective of abortion access in Colorado, either.

But the question remains, how did we get here? How, in the year 2022, are we still debating what so many of us assumed was settled law and a Constitutional right?

Because abortion access is about power. And this bill, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, is also about power - it is about the power of each person to decide for themselves whether to become pregnant, whether to continue a pregnancy, and whether to give birth. There is nothing more economically, emotionally, and physically determinative to someone's life than the power of the decision if, how, or when to become a parent.

As Coloradans, we have long believed that power belongs to individuals, not the state. It's why we became the first state to decriminalize abortion, in 1967 - six years before *Roe v Wade*. We believe that these decisions belong between individuals and their medical providers, not with politicians or the government.

Those views have remained consistent for more than fifty years. And until now, we have relied on the power of the Supreme Court and the federal courts to enforce them. But as we have seen, those who would take away that individual power will never stop, to the point that the Supreme Court is poised to gut or overturn *Roe v. Wade* in the case known as *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*.

That case was argued on December 1, 2021, and a decision is expected between now and the end of June. It is entirely likely that abortion access could be returned to the states, in which case abortion would become illegal in about half the US, including many around Colorado.

But even with the protection of *Roe v. Wade*, the attacks on abortion access and reproductive rights in Colorado have been relentless.

I started at Cobalt in 2013. Since 2010, and as of two weeks ago, Colorado has seen 44 attempts to restrict abortion access with bills at the General Assembly and FOUR attempts to ban abortion on the ballot since 2008. These attacks have escalated and grown more extreme in recent years as abortion opponents have seen the Supreme Court grow more and more hostile to the Constitutional right to abortion established in *Roe*. We've also seen attempts at municipal bans, something RHEA would pre-empt.

They include everything from 'personhood bills' making a fertilized egg a person under Colorado law to flat out abortion bans that would put doctors and patients in jail. The most recent attempts have included abortion surveillance and the junk science notion of 'abortion reversal', which is so dangerous the one valid medical study on it had to be halted after three women went to the hospital with severe bleeding.

We have defeated these bills and ballot measures in Colorado by landslide margins, because Coloradans agree with us on access to abortion care. We know this not just from polls but from actual votes.

But as states around us have enacted bans and restrictions, the pressure on Colorado as a haven state for abortion care has increased. Our Cobalt abortion fund has seen patients needing help from all over the country, including as far away as Ohio, Texas, and Florida. We have heard heartbreaking stories from Colorado providers helping patients in desperate circumstances who literally had nowhere else to go.

We need the Reproductive Health Equity Act to ensure abortion and contraception access remains available in Colorado, no matter what happens at the Supreme Court.

We need the Reproductive Health Equity Act because abortion care must remain accessible for everyone, regardless of circumstances, without shame, stigma, cost barriers, or politicians getting in the way.

We need the Reproductive Health Equity Act to ensure that each of us has the power to make our own decisions about abortion and contraception and determine the course of our own lives.

Thank you and I welcome your questions.



Vote Against HB22-1279Kathy Roberts to: committees.lcs.ga@state.co.us 03/09/2022  
12:55 PM

To Whom it may concern:

I urge you to vote against HB22-1279 RHEA. This bill is morally wrong, harms women, and is radically prejudice against women of color and unborn children. To kill mankind for the sake of mankind cannot be justified. To call a bill Reproductive Health Equity is deceitful. It is a bill that places NO value on either the women or her child - it is murder. Taking the innocent life of a child and causing psychological and potential physical harm to a women's health from the outcome of abortion is a despicable act and a crime against humanity. If you have a conscious that has not been seared, then you must do what is right and protect both the women and her child and vote no on this heinous bill. To do anything less makes you a hypocrite – a person who puts on a false appearance of virtue for your political cause.

With respect, I urge you to reconsider this bill and vote no.

*Kathy Roberts*

P.O. Box 1335, Lyons CO



HB22-1279Keith and Tracy Jordan to: committees.lcs.ga@state.co.us 03/09/2022 09:17 AM

As a citizen of Colorado and humanity, I am horrified by the extreme measures in HB22-1279. I ask that it be voted down. I especially worry about the increase in suicides by minors who might pursue abortions without parental knowledge. It would leave them in a lonely, vulnerable place physically and emotionally. The fact that a baby could be killed when viable ,if born, is beyond where a civilized society should ever consider going. Please vote down this horrible bill.

With a heavy heart,  
Tracy Jordan

To the Honorable Members of the Colorado Legislature:

My name is Nona Ellington.

I am testifying against HB 22-1279, the "Reproductive Health Equity Act," because abortion is very unsafe for all women of all ages.

I am a former abortion patient.

I was a victim of date rape at age 15 and became pregnant. I was coerced into an abortion and as a result of that one legal abortion, I was unable to have children ever. Instead of having children, I had 5 miscarriages, 3 of them ectopic pregnancies requiring emergency surgeries and very near death experiences, including my tube rupturing with my last pregnancy. I also suffered with breast cancer in 2014, as a result of that abortion. I even had the genetic testing done, proving I am not a carrier of the breast cancer gene. As you can imagine, I suffered many years with depression, attempted suicide and anxiety disorder.

Thank you for the honor of sharing my story. Please vote against HB 22-1279!



11 DUPONT CIRCLE NW  
SUITE 800  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036  
202-588-5180  
NWLC.ORG

March 9, 2022

House Health and Insurance Committee  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: SUPPORT HB22-1279

Dear Committee Members,

The National Women's Law Center (NWLC), based in Washington, D.C., is a nonpartisan, non-profit legal and advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement and protection of women's legal rights and opportunities. The Law Center is submitting comments in support of House Bill 1279.<sup>1</sup> We urge the Committee to advance this critical bill.

At the Law Center, we use the law in all its forms to change culture and drive solutions to the gender inequity that shapes our society, and to break down the barriers that harm all of us – especially those who face multiple forms of discrimination. We know that access to reproductive health care – including abortion – is vital to gender equity. And access to abortion is a key part of one's liberty, equality, and economic security. Everyone, no matter where they live or their financial means, should be able to access abortion when they need it, without government interference and with dignity and respect. As such, we strongly support attempts to affirm and expand abortion access for Coloradans, like House Bill 1279.

I. It is critical time to protect abortion access in Colorado.

House Bill 1279 would modernize Colorado law to protect reproductive rights as fundamental rights, at a time that is particularly crucial for the future of abortion access. For over forty-nine years, the U.S. Supreme Court has made it clear that the U.S. Constitution protects an individual's right to decide whether to have an abortion.<sup>2</sup> But that right is at risk, with a direct challenge before the Supreme Court,<sup>3</sup> and anti-abortion state lawmakers across the country emboldened to introduce and pass abortion restrictions.<sup>4</sup> And if the legal right to abortion is overturned or gutted, history shows us that

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<sup>1</sup> Co. H.B. 22-1279, Reg. Sess. 2022.

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 153 (1973); see also *Planned Parenthood of Cent. Mo. v. Danforth*, 428 U.S. 52, 72–73 (1976); *City of Akron v. Akron Ctr. for Reprod. Health, Inc.*, 462 U.S. 416, 432–33 (1983); *Hodgson v. Minnesota*, 497 U.S. 417, 434 (1990); *Planned Parenthood of Se. Pa. v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833, 878 (1992); *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, 136 S. Ct. 2292, 2318 (2016).

<sup>3</sup> Pet. for Cert., *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Org.*, No. 19-1392 (S. Ct. docketed June 15, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth Nash, Guttmacher Inst., *State Policy Trends 2021: The Worst Year for Abortion Rights in Almost Half a Century* (Dec. 31, 2021), <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2021/12/state-policy-trends-2021-worst-year-abortion-rights-almost-half-century>.

Coloradans may face municipal bans on abortion<sup>5</sup> or other attacks. House Bill 1279 would affirm the right to abortion access at this important moment in time.

II. Abortion access is crucial to gender equity and House Bill 1279 would help ensure Coloradans have that access.

As the Supreme Court in *Casey* named: “The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives.”<sup>6</sup> And being forced to continue a pregnancy results in substantial economic, educational, and professional burdens. Such consequences are particularly detrimental to those who work in low-paid jobs or live in poverty, who are disproportionately people of color.

In addition to the serious implications for bodily autonomy and one’s health, forcing a person to carry a pregnancy to term can have long-term negative consequences with respect to their economic security, workforce participation, and educational opportunities. A study comparing people who terminated a pregnancy to those who wanted but were unable to obtain an abortion found that one year later people denied an abortion were less likely to be employed in a full-time job, and even four years after being denied, those that were denied were still more likely to be living below the federal poverty line.<sup>7</sup> There was an increased likelihood that families didn’t have enough money to pay for basic family necessities like food, housing and transportation if pregnant people were denied an abortion. Women unable to terminate unwanted pregnancies were more likely to stay in contact with violent partners, putting them and their children at greater risk than if they had received the abortion.<sup>8</sup> Women forced to carry a pregnancy to term may also face diminished earnings, interference with their career advancement, disruption of their education, and fewer resources for children they already have.<sup>9</sup>

In conclusion, it is clear that House Bill 1279 is an important step in a critical moment to help ensure Coloradans will have abortion access. The decision about whether, when, or how to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions we make. When people can make decisions throughout a pregnancy that are best for their lives, families thrive and we build communities where each of us can participate with dignity. The Law Center urges the Health and Insurance Committee to advance House Bill 1279, which affirms people’s basic humanity, their rights, and their freedom.

Sincerely,



Heather Shumaker  
Director of State Abortion Access  
National Women’s Law Center

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<sup>5</sup> Jason Salzman, *Anti-Choice Group: End Abortion Access in Colorado Springs After Deadly Clinic Shooting* (Feb. 11, 2016), <https://rewirenewsgroup.com/article/2016/02/11/anti-choice-group-end-abortion-access-colorado-springs-deadly-clinic-shooting/>.

<sup>6</sup> *Casey*, 505 U.S. at 856.

<sup>7</sup> Women denied an abortion had almost four times greater odds of a household income below the federal poverty level and three times greater odds of being unemployed. *Turnaway Study*, BIXBY CENT. FOR GLOBAL REPROD. HEALTH, <https://www.ansirh.org/research/turnaway-study>; Diana Greene Foster, *Presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo: Socioeconomic Consequences of Abortion Compared to Unwanted Birth* (Oct. 30, 2012), <https://apha.confex.com/apha/140am/webprogram/Paper263858.html>; Diane Green Foster, et. al., *Socioeconomic Outcomes of Women Who Receive and Women Who Are Denied Wanting Abortions in the United States*, AM. PUB. HEALTH ASS’N. (March 2018), <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304247>.

<sup>8</sup> *See id.*

<sup>9</sup> *See* Brief of Amici Curiae Nat’l Women’s Law Ctr., *supra* note 10, at 36-37.



HB22-1279

artbypattie to: committees.lcs.ga

03/09/2022 06:36 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Pattie Lindsay and I live in a Byers, CO and I am a mother of three and grandmother of seven, two of which live with Jesus. I am writing you today to give you a glimpse into life after abortion and how my family was touched by it .

On September 20, 2016 , my son Keenan's life was forever changed. He and his girlfriend had become pregnant and she was very concerned with having a baby. He was so excited to be a father, as it has always been his dream to have children. His girlfriend had previously given a child up for adoption and she told him "she didn't want to have another baby" but as a family we rallied around them and told them we would help financially and however else we could. Our entire family was so excited to have another baby added to it! We offered to pay for all of the medical expenses and living expenses as to ease her stress.

She was 12 weeks pregnant and my son had attempted multiple times to reach her and there was no response, he went to her apartment and she wasn't there. He was getting concerned and text her sister, which assured him she was fine but just stressed out and wanted a few days to rest and reset. She was gone for four days and when she returned she told him she had miscarried the baby and how relieved she was she didn't have to have another baby. Later she told the truth about going to Planned Parenthood and receiving an abortion.

May I ask you a question? Where are the rights of the father? The grandparents? The aunts and uncles and cousins of the families that were willing to do whatever it took to have a baby added? Where are the rights of a child who was truly wanted? My son had no rights! I, as that little guys Gram, had no rights! That precious little human being never knew what it felt like to be so loved!

The argument was presented to me by one attorney that it was "her body, her choice" but I completely disagree! My son wanted that baby, my son is established at a job for 11 years, had full coverage insurance, a home for 12 years , and a family completely behind him to raise his child! Yet, he doesn't get a say as to what happens to his child!

Now for a few of the lasting effects on our family. My son battles depression, has trust issues, has become withdrawn compared to his previous life. As a family we remember his child every year on April 4th as it was the due date. As a healing tool he named his son Korbin Kraig Lindsay and he is remembered, counted and a complete part of our family.

This letter is to beg you to consider the rights of the fathers and the grandparents and really the entire families of these babies killed over a decision they have no right to partake in. This letter is for you to know that there was a little baby boy named Korbin Kraig Lindsay that existed and his Daddy and grandparents left heartbroken because we didn't get a say! Please stand up for fathers rights and the babies rights!!

Heartbroken,  
Pattie Lindsay  
426 S.Owens St  
Byers, CO 80103

303-886-0771

Sent from my iPhone



Re: Registration confirmation - House Health & Insurance 03/09/2022 01:30 PM (In Person)P M to: LCS Committees 03/09/2022 09:48 AM  
History: This message has been replied to.

Dear Reader,

I intended to sign up for written testimony, not in person testimony.

I am writing to fully support HB22-1279, Reproductive Health Equity Act. 58.

Sincerely,  
Pauline Migliore  
337 Granite Way  
Johnstown, Colorado 80534

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**From:** LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@state.co.us> on behalf of LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@state.co.us>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:47 AM

**To:** permiglio1@hotmail.com <permiglio1@hotmail.com>

**Cc:** committees.lcs.ga@state.co.us <committees.lcs.ga@state.co.us>

**Subject:** Registration confirmation - House Health & Insurance 03/09/2022 01:30 PM (In Person)

Thank you for registering to testify in person at the following hearing:

Committee: House Health & Insurance  
Date Time: 03/09/2022 01:30 PM  
Bill: HB22-1279  
Room: Old State Library  
Position on Bill: For

#### **Committee Information**

The committee chair determines the order of testimony and may limit the time allotted for public testimony. Witnesses may be called to testify at any point during the hearing as determined by the chair.

Hearings may be delayed or rescheduled. Please check the House and Senate calendars posted on the General Assembly's website for updates. For committee changes that occur the day of a committee hearing, please visit the Legislative Council committees Twitter feed, @COLCSCommittees, for updates.

**You can track committee and floor action through this link:**

<https://www.leg.state.co.us/public/display.nsf/index.html>

For additional information on testifying before a committee of the Colorado General Assembly, please read the memorandum found [here](#). The House regulations for remote testimony can be found [here](#) and the Senate regulations for remote testimony can be found [here](#).

Thank you  
Colorado Legislative Council Staff



HB 22 1279Reina Bernfeld to: committees.lcs.ga 03/08/2022 06:22 PM

Please VOTE NO on this bill. It is PURE EVIL.

Reina Bernfeld  
Denver, CO

Good afternoon, members of the House Health and Insurance Committee. I'm Shara Smith, executive director of the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado. I'm here today to ask that you vote in favor of House Bill 1279, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, or RHEA.

As the flagship interfaith public policy and advocacy organization in the Centennial State for the past two decades, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado has brought together more than 400 congregations spanning over two dozen faith traditions, and we plan on bringing another 300 congregations into the fold over the next several years. Our network includes a vast array of faiths and religions, from Catholicism and Protestant Christianity to Buddhism, Sikhism, and the Church of Latter-Day Saints, to Islam and Zoroastrianism, along with many other faith communities too numerous to include here today.

As you can imagine, bringing in so many diverse faith traditions and philosophies under one tent is difficult. But the faith families in our network all stand together when it comes to issues important to Coloradans like affordable housing, racial equity, criminal justice reform, and reproductive freedom.

**I want to emphasize that people of faith are not monolithic when it comes to reproductive rights.** On just three days notice, several of our clergy members heeded the call to come before you today in support of RHEA, representing the United Church of Christ, Centers for Spiritual Living, the Unitarian Universalist Church, Judaism, and other interfaith traditions. They came from the Denver Metro area, from El Paso County, and Douglas County.

I say all of this to stress that no one faith matters more than another. Faith is how we make sense of the inexplicable, and is carried on by the stories we pass down to future generations. Because no one belief system is superior to others, the practitioners of one particular faith should never get to impose their own personal beliefs and values on the public at large. Rejecting RHEA on the basis of one faith tradition would create a hierarchy of influence for all faith traditions in our state.

This gets to the heart of why RHEA is so important: This bill doesn't force pregnant people to get contraceptions or abortions, nor does it mandate that they refuse contraception or abortion. It merely establishes that it is every individual's fundamental right to make the decision that is best for them, based on their own circumstances and their own faith traditions. This is not simply a pro-abortion bill; this is a pro-freedom bill. And protecting faith and freedom is at the heart of why the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado staff, along with several of our clergy partners, are here today.

I urge this committee to pass House Bill 1279 without delay. Thank you for your time.



## My testimony

Sharry Halpin to: committees.lcs.ga@state.co.us

03/09/2022 04:57 PM

I was 17 when I had my 1st abortion. It was here in Colorado, off Colorado blvd. I will never forget throwing up on that very street after my procedure. I never got any counseling, I never got an ultrasound, had I seen my baby, I dont believe I would have done it. I'm thankful my parents knew I was pregnant, even at 17, I was still a child. They left the choice up to me, I wish they hadn't, I wish they would have said, you can do this and everything will be fine. I was terrified and made a choice 41 years ago, that I have to live with, and regret, every day of my life. To leave this up to a child is wrong. What would happen if there were complications and the young woman got an infection or worse bleed to death because her parents were unaware? Would the parents be liable for their minor daughter when they didn't know? Would the abortionist be held responsible? This bill is dangerous for the lives of a young woman not to mention could ruin her chances for becoming a mother in the future. What if she murdered the only child she could have had? This was my fear when I finally decided to have children at 28 years old. I feared my body may have been damaged after, not one, but two abortions. Fortunately, I was able to have 3 sons by the grace of God.

Abortion not only takes the life of a human being it damages women, maybe not some physically, but emotionally. After my abortion I became severely depressed and tried to commit suicide, I was empty, literally, I was broken and my body was confused after it had been carrying a life and it was suddenly gone. Desperate to fill this emptiness I began to eat to the point of throwing up, the throwing up helped released my emotional pain. This led to 30 plus years of bulimia which was living hell and difficult to break free from. Women may think once the baby is gone, that's the end of it. I can assure you it's not. The shame, guilt, and depression lives on. I was on anti-depressants for 20 years until God healed me. I have been forgiven and set free after much counseling by both man and God. I am a whole person now however I will always live with regret. I cannot bring those lives back. They would be around 40 years old, and would have been on their own for at least 20 years. I think of them and know they would have been a huge blessing and maybe I would even have grand children, but I cut those blessings off.

I am against this bill, as abortion almost destroyed me and caused me to want to take my own life. It is very sad that when people want a baby it is precious human life inside them, but if you don't want it, it is nothing but a fetus to be discarded and an inconvenience. Abortion is murder, taking the life of a precious soul! I never want another woman to go through what I did, and still do, living with the regret and heartbreak of the loss of the sons I could have known.

A baby is a blessing, even in difficult circumstances, a baby can turn darkness into light and devastation into joy

When I had my abortions I was passionately "Pro-life" because I wanted to justify what I had done, that is what people do to make themselves feel better, when they know it is wrong.

Abortion hurts women!

Sharry L. Halpin  
(720) 581-5670

Good afternoon, Madam Chair Representative Lontine and members of the House Health and Insurance Committee.

My name is Joyce Zounis Brown. Though I called the greater Denver area home for 21 years from 1999 to 2020, I now live in South Carolina.

As a female born woman, motherhood is something I rejected for eleven years through multiple abortions. I am a person with rights and autonomy to my body. Like many today, I supported abortion. Also, like many today, I now share a different story.

How can I be in this mindset, space?

Reality is, I committed violence in my womb against my alive children.

To say these words and acknowledge this truth, is MOST troubling.

As promised, abortion DID NOT empower me. Instead, a decade long wake had followed with harmful traumatic physical complications including mental health issues, high risk pregnancies, premature births, and placenta previa which ended my reproduction health.

My children whom I had called problems, hinderances, so easily removed, have been grieved for 30 years.

The scale of injustice and suffering in the women of the Colorado and beyond, there are many of us, begins in the womb. Abortion is a crime against humanity, to the preborn child in the womb and to the woman of the womb.

Abortion is not an easy answer to a difficult space. It is a freedom less moment that relentlessly haunts you regardless if chosen by circumstance or choice.

Wherever you go, there you are.

Whether a medical or surgical abortion, one who tells another it is ok, the driver to the abortion appointment, even a legislator who votes to support abortion; one day this truth is known and your soul will sorrow with consequences.

Protect Colorado's future and her womb.

This former abortion patient asks you to OPPOSE HB 1279.

Thank you.



Testimony of National Advocates for Pregnant Women before Colorado General Assembly  
in Support of HB 1279

NAPW is a non-partisan legal advocacy organization dedicated to the welfare of pregnant people and their families. Our testimony draws on over 20 years of experience on cases in which state actors arrested and prosecuted pregnant or postpartum women for experiencing pregnancy losses or engaging in acts or omissions that posed some imagined risk of harm to a fetus.

Colorado is not exempt from disturbing national trends. For example, in 2016, a mother was arrested from the hospital where she had just given birth. She was charged with child abuse resulting in injury, based on her pregnancy and alleged use of a controlled substance.

NAPW has documented more than 1,600 instances since 1973 in which women were arrested, prosecuted, convicted, detained, or forced to undergo medical interventions because state actors assumed their rights could be denied in the interest of fetal protection.<sup>1</sup>

These prosecutions are brought despite the fact that pregnancy losses are dishearteningly common,<sup>2</sup> and can rarely—if ever—be attributed to anything that a pregnant woman did or did not do. These prosecutions are brought based on the theory that once a person becomes pregnant, her otherwise legal acts or omissions may be viewed as crimes.

Passage of HB 1279 would ensure that no pregnant or postpartum person would be subjected to the trauma of a criminal investigation or other rights violation on top of the trauma of experiencing a pregnancy loss or for alleged actions taken or not taken during pregnancy that posed some imagined risk of harm to the fetus.

HB 1279 also represents good public policy, consistent with the recommendations of every major public health and medical group that unanimously oppose punitive responses to pregnancy, finding that such responses are harmful to the health of women and children, and pose “serious threats to people’s health and the health system itself ... [by] erod[ing] trust in the medical system, making people less likely to seek help when they need it.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> NAPW, *Arrests and Deprivations of Liberty of Pregnant Women, 1973-2020* (Sept. 2021), [bit.ly/arrests1973to2020](https://bit.ly/arrests1973to2020); Paltrow & Flavin, *Arrests of and Forced Interventions on Pregnant Women in the United States, 1973–2005: Implications for Women’s Legal Status and Public Health*, 38 J. Health Politics, Pol. & L. 299, 323 (2013).

<sup>2</sup> Dugas, Carla & Slane, Valori H, *Miscarriage*, (Jan. 29, 2021), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK532992/>; Hoyert, D. L., Ph.D., & Gregory, E. C., M.P.H, *Division of Vital Statistics. Cause of Fetal Death: Data From the Fetal Death Report, 2014*, (Oct. 30, 2016), [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr65/nvsr65\\_07.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr65/nvsr65_07.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> ACOG, *Opposition to Criminalization of Individuals During Pregnancy and Postpartum Period* (2020), <https://www.acog.org/clinical-information/policy-and-position-statements/statements-of-policy/2020/opposition-criminalization-of-individuals-pregnancy-and-postpartum-period>. For similar reasons, ACOG has also specifically

We strongly support HB 1279 and urge the Colorado Legislature to pass it to prevent the insidious prosecution of people in relation to pregnancy. HB 1279 will guard against traumatizing criminal investigations and family separation, prioritizes maternal and infant health, and will ensure that the rapidly expanding prosecutorial playbook that targets pregnant people for criminalization will have no place in Colorado.

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opposed criminal penalties for people who have abortions outside of approved medical settings. *See* ACOG, Decriminalization of Self-Induced Abortion (2017), <https://www.acog.org/clinical-information/policy-and-position-statements/position-statements/2017/decriminalization-of-self-induced-abortion>.



## **TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE:**

My name is Allan E. Parker, Jr. I am a former Professor of Law. I am licensed to practice law and currently do so before The United States Supreme Court. I am also the President of The Justice Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 public interest litigation foundation. A more complete bio is attached to my testimony. I represent thousands of women hurt by abortion and everything I know about how abortion hurts women comes from women. I will provide you with testimony of Colorado women as well.

Having reviewed HB 22-1279, I am of the opinion HB 22-1279 is detrimental to the health and safety of women in Colorado. Since Colorado already has a Safe Haven law, as does every other state in the nation, no woman in Colorado has to take care of an unwanted child if she is not able to or does not want to parent her child.

As you know, *Roe v. Wade* has never been uniformly accepted by the American people. In fact, it is the subject of "severe criticism", which is one reason for overturning Supreme Court precedent. The Moral Outcry Petition ([www.themoraloutcry.com](http://www.themoraloutcry.com)) has over 539,108 signers calling Abortion a Crime Against Humanity, which it is. A Crime Against Humanity occurs when the government withdraws legal protection from a class of human beings, resulting in severe deprivation of rights, including death.

Abortion obviously results in loss of "**infant life**" as even the Supreme Court has acknowledged in *Gonzales v. Carhart*, 550 U.S. 124 (2007). The Court in that case also admitted that abortion hurts women. The Court acknowledged that "some women come to regret aborting the **infant life** she once created and sustained." "Whether to have an abortion requires a difficult and painful moral decision" and is "fraught with emotional consequence." The Court also noted that "severe depression and loss of esteem can follow" an abortion. *Ibid.*

The Supreme Court has overturned its prior opinions over two hundred times, including even in what Justice Kavanaugh calls its single most important decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which overturned a 58-year-old precedent allowing segregation which millions of Americans had unjustly relied upon.

Colorado should stop killing "**infant life**", instead it already provides a government safety net to help women through the Colorado Safe Haven law. Finally, there are one to two million people waiting to adopt newborn children in America. [https://www.americanadoptions.com/pregnant/waiting\\_adoptive\\_families](https://www.americanadoptions.com/pregnant/waiting_adoptive_families). There will be no

burden of foster care for children for the State of Colorado. It is a win-win for everyone in America, including the women who might otherwise choose abortion today.

I would like to provide to you 119 legally admissible written sworn testimonies of Colorado Women Hurt By Abortion:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r8n567kfawhlml6/AACSGzDCmWttZjElOpqv-pla?dl=0>

Also, here is a link to the Task Force Report of South Dakota which studied the issue carefully:

<http://www.dakotavoices.com/Docs/South%20Dakota%20Abortion%20Task%20Force%20Report.pdf>

Judge Edith Jones of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has said the Supreme Court should reevaluate *Roe v. Wade*. See *McCorvey v. Hill*, 385 F. 3d 846 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004) (cert. denied). In *Wayne Stenehjem, et al v. MKB Management Corp, et al*, 795 F. 3d 768 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2015) (cert. denied) the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously said abortion should be reevaluated. Now, Colorado can help that occur.

As a state, Colorado should say: “Let’s give justice to infants, but let’s give mercy to the mother through our Colorado Safe Haven law.” The Colorado Safe Haven law allows every woman to legally surrender a newborn baby to a fire station or hospital within 72 hours of birth. It is free unlike abortion. Any woman can be free without killing the child and injuring herself with abortion trauma.

Advancing Life, Liberty and Justice in Him,

Allan E. Parker  
President  
The Justice Foundation  
aparker@txjf.org  
[www.thejusticefoundation.org](http://www.thejusticefoundation.org)  
210-614-7157

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB22-1279,

HB22-1279 ignores global conventional knowledge and practice with regards to abortion restrictions. As a result it will enhance the devastating effects of socio-economic disparities especially for people of color. It attempts to assign rights based on unfounded distinctions, and does not include protections for conscientious objection for healthcare providers, workers, and faith institutions.

HB22-1279 works to remove any restrictions on abortion in the state. Colorado is already one of a few states that makes [the US one of 7 countries that allow abortion after 20 weeks, and one of 6 countries that allow abortion after 24 weeks](#). The restriction of abortion after 20 weeks is because that the fetus can feel pain, which is not mitigated during an abortion procedure. The restriction after 24 weeks is generally because the fetus is viable (can survive outside the womb). Both of these points in gestation are meaningful distinctions for restricting abortion. In an attempt to “modernize Colorado's statutes”, we will be regressing by removing restrictions that so many other countries and states understand. These restrictions are what keep us human. Without restrictions on abortion, it can be used to eliminate children of a specific sex or presence of a disability. [Abortion also becomes weaponized in the presence of socioeconomic disparities especially for people of color](#). Though this is clearly not the intent of HB22-1279, the result will be further disparities.

HB22-1279 wants to make it so, “a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights under the laws of this state.” There is no basis for this scientifically, ethically, or legally. It is simply a mechanism to ignore viability. With HB22-1279, rights will only be bestowed on a human at birth. The difference between a fetus and a neonate is location from inside or outside of the womb. This distinction for assignment of rights is inconsequential for something as large as the assignment of rights in a state. Viability is a more impactful distinction and one already understood by so many nations and states in the world. We should work toward assignment of rights at the point of conception because it is the clearest, most scientifically sound, and ethical distinction there is on this topic.

HB22-1279 does not allow for conscientious objection of healthcare providers, workers, and faith institutions. I am a practicing Catholic. I cannot participate, provide, or promote the use of contraception or abortion without it constituting a grave or moral sin. This would mean that I can't participate in the Eucharist, which is considered the source and summit of my faith and I would effectively not be able to practice my faith according to my sincerely held religious beliefs. Without protections for my sincerely held beliefs and for others beliefs, this bill could lead to moral coercion. This continues to be misunderstood and a source of discrimination in the state of Colorado. It already limits my employment opportunities. This problem will grow if HB22-1279 is passed. Please reach out to me if you would like to talk with me more on this subject.

Again, I want to urge you to vote NO on HB22-1279. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Tschapl

## Citations

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2017/10/09/is-the-united-states-one-of-some-even-countries-that-allow-elective-abortions-after-20-weeks-of-pregnancy/>

<https://lozierinstitute.org/internationalabortionnorms/>

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2015/nov/25/cynthia-meyer/cynthia-meyer-says-more-black-babies-are-aborted-n/>



RE: HB22-1279Bill to: LCS Committees 03/08/2022 02:48 PM  
Cc: "meg.froelich.house@state.co.us", "daneya.esgar.house@state.co.us",  
jullie.gonzales.senate

Dear Members of the State Legislature,

I implore you not to make Colorado the national mecca for abortions by passing this terrible bill, which will help destroy the fabric of our State and basically turn us over to the abortion industry, which already has too much influence both in Colorado and nationally.

Leaving aside the immorality of abortion, especially late term abortions, which is undeniable, abortions of the kind you are considering are racists, misogynistic, and are part of a plan to depopulate the country. Minority women receive a disproportionate number of abortions, which was one of Margaret Sanger's goals when she founded planned parenthood. Margaret was an avid eugenicist, and a favorite of the Nazi racial "scientists". More girls than boys are aborted, as the Chinese have discovered after a full generation of abortion promotion, and abortions destroy the demographics of the society. Again, China has too few young people and especially too few women, to keep their economy going. Once birth rates fall below replacement levels it is hard to recover.

Despite what you may have been told, the United States is heading for a population cliff, where we will be going down the trail the Chinese have blazed for us. We can never retrieve the thousands of children that are lost to abortion each week, and our populatoin will gradually become senile and decrepit, relying on imported people from the third world to take care of us in our dottage. We can not allow this to happen.

In the 1970's my wife and I seriously considered having an abortion after an unplanned pregnancy, but fortunatley we elected not to do this and to go ahead and have a baby girl. That girl is now a married woman who is having her first child in June. Every day I thank God that we did not have that abortion. How many families have been damaged for life by making the other decision.

The democratic party is already branded with a love for authoritarianism, vaccine mandates and passports, lockdowns and emergency powers. I suggest you not allow the party to become the party of mass infanticide. I urge you personally not to associate yourselves with it either.

If you must abort something, make it HB22-1279.

Thank you.

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William B. DeOreo, P.E., M.S.  
3030 15th Street  
Boulder, CO 80304  
303-859-4997 (cell)