

Testimony of Karl Chwe, representing the Indivisible Front Range Resistance

In support of House Bill 17-1230, "Protect Colorado Residents From Federal Government Overreach," also known as the "Ralph Carr" bill.

March 16, 2017

We, the approximately <sup>4</sup>3,000 members of the Indivisible Front Range Resistance, stand strongly in favor of House Bill 17-1230, the bill to "Protect Colorado Residents From Federal Government Overreach," also known as the "Ralph Carr" bill.

The core values of the United States include fairness, decency, and the rule of law. Those values are manifest throughout our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and much legislation, in the form of the right of due process and the prohibition against discrimination by race or religion, to name a few.

Racist, bigoted and ignorant gestures such as President Trump's call for a Muslim registry and his executive orders blocking refugees and travel from seven, or six, predominantly Muslim states strike at the very heart of these values. Further, instead of speaking truth to the American public, and thereby providing leadership worthy of the name, they exploit and manipulate the very natural fears of the American majority.

This bill very appropriately called the Ralph Carr bill, would prevent the state of Colorado from becoming complicit in such morally corrupt actions as identifying, registering or incarcerating people solely on the basis of their race, nationality, sexual preference, immigration status or religion. Those actions would deprive them of their rights to due process and subject them to discrimination that we Americans have repudiated, again and again.

Governor Ralph Lawrence Carr, a conservative Republican, followed not just his own conscience but a long and principled American tradition, when he protested the internment of Japanese-Americans in 1942. For his courage and deep understanding of American values, his is a cherished name today. He said, "They are as loyal to American institutions as you and I. Many of the have been born here—are American citizens, with no connection or feeling of loyalty toward the customs and philosophies of Italy, Germany and Japan.... I am not talking on behalf of Japanese, of Italians, or of Germans as such when I say this. I am talking to ... all American people whether their status be white, brown or black and regardless of the birthplaces of their grandfathers when I say that if a majority may deprive a minority of its freedom, contrary to the terms of the Constitution today, then you as a minority may be subjected to the same ill-will of the majority tomorrow."

Carr said, "If you harm them, you must first harm me." We say to you, if you harm them, you must first harm all of us. We applaud Representatives Salazar and Esgar, and Senators Kagan and Guzman, for putting forth this brave, principled and quintessentially American bill.

Testimony of Karl Chwe, representing the Indivisible Front Range Resistance

In support of House Bill 17-1230, "Protect Colorado Residents From Federal Government Overreach," also known as the "Ralph Carr" bill.

March 16, 2017

We, the approximately <sup>9</sup>3,000 members of the Indivisible Front Range Resistance, stand strongly in favor of House Bill 17-1230, the bill to "Protect Colorado Residents From Federal Government Overreach," also known as the "Ralph Carr" bill.

The core values of the United States include fairness, decency, and the rule of law. Those values are manifest throughout our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and much legislation, in the form of the right of due process and the prohibition against discrimination by race or religion, to name a few.

Racist, bigoted and ignorant gestures such as President Trump's call for a Muslim registry and his executive orders blocking refugees and travel from seven, or six, predominantly Muslim states strike at the very heart of these values. Further, instead of speaking truth to the American public, and thereby providing leadership worthy of the name, they exploit and manipulate the very natural fears of the American majority.

This bill very appropriately called the Ralph Carr bill, would prevent the state of Colorado from becoming complicit in such morally corrupt actions as identifying, registering or incarcerating people solely on the basis of their race, nationality, sexual preference, immigration status or religion. Those actions would deprive them of their rights to due process and subject them to discrimination that we Americans have repudiated, again and again.

Governor Ralph Lawrence Carr, a conservative Republican, followed not just his own conscience but a long and principled American tradition, when he protested the internment of Japanese-Americans in 1942. For his courage and deep understanding of American values, his is a cherished name today. He said, "They are as loyal to American institutions as you and I. Many of the have been born here—are American citizens, with no connection or feeling of loyalty toward the customs and philosophies of Italy, Germany and Japan.... I am not talking on behalf of Japanese, of Italians, or of Germans as such when I say this. I am talking to ... all American people whether their status be white, brown or black and regardless of the birthplaces of their grandfathers when I say that if a majority may deprive a minority of its freedom, contrary to the terms of the Constitution today, then you as a minority may be subjected to the same ill-will of the majority tomorrow."

Carr said, "If you harm them, you must first harm me." We say to you, if you harm them, you must first harm all of us. We applaud Representatives Salazar and Esgar, and Senators Kagan and Guzman, for putting forth this brave, principled and quintessentially American bill.

Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act, HB17-1230  
Remarks  
March 16, 2017

Chairman Lee, Representative Salazar and committee members,

My name is Susan Noble.

I am here today as one of the nearly 4,000 citizens with Indivisible Front Range Resistance and representing its arm, Colorado Indivisible State Legislation.

We're among the scores of Indivisible groups in Colorado (and the thousands nationally) that have formed to protect our neighbors, ourselves, and our values of inclusion and tolerance.

The U.S. Constitution ensures equal representation for all individuals living in the United States, irregardless of your race, ethnicity, religious preference or immigration status.

Today we stand, Indivisible, in support of HB17-1230, the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act, and of the protections it affords our neighbors from unconstitutional Federal overreach.

Thank you.

Susan Noble  
10642 Olathe St  
Commerce City, CO 80022

**Ellen Brown, PhD**

Research, Writing, Publications  
2281 Ivy St., Denver, CO 80207-3907

March 14, 2017

Colorado House Judiciary Committee  
Representative Joe Salazar  
Representative Daneya Esgar  
Representative Leslie Herod  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax  
Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: House Bill 17-1230 Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act

Dear Representatives of Colorado Citizens:

Colorado is a beautiful state in which I am proud to live. But Colorado has a dark and shameful stain on its history because of its participation in the WWII internment of over 7,300 individuals, mostly of Japanese descent, at Camp Amache. We proud Coloradans must not repeat – or forget – this history. For this reason, I write to ask the Colorado Judiciary Committee to support HB 17-1230, which would protect Colorado from repeating actions like this dishonorable one from our state's past.

I have an adopted niece, born in China and raised here in Colorado by her parents and our loving extended family. In the midst of this current national climate, I fear for her future. Will she one day be imprisoned in a Colorado internment camp because she was not born in this country? Will she be forced to register as a possible threat to our state and our country simply because of her Asian heritage or the color of her skin?

Let us learn from history. Let us proactively prepare for Colorado to reject any Executive Orders or legislative attempts to set up internment camps or registries of individuals – Muslim or other – because of their religious, racial, ethnic, or immigration status. Colorado needs no more internment camps, no more Camp Amaches, no segregation by color or creed. Please support the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act and the principles of democracy for which our state and our country stand.

Sincerely,



Margaret Ellen Brown, PhD

Suzanne Burdick  
2821 Ash Street  
Denver, Colorado 80207  
720-289-1411

March 15, 2017

RE: HB17-1230, Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act

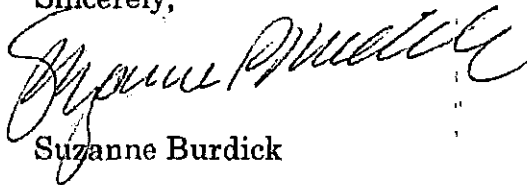
Dear Colorado Congress:

I urge you to pass HB17-1230 for the good of all Colorado citizens.

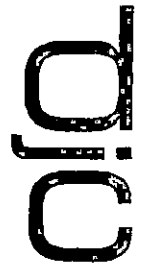
This bill will help continue Colorado's long history of protecting all citizens. We must send a message to the current administrative regarding its overreaching mandates.

Please consider HB17-1230 carefully and then pass it.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Burdick



daniel j. culhane llc  
attorney at law

March 14, 2017

Dear House Judiciary Committee Members:

I write to urge you to support the  
Ralph Carr Freedom Act.

It is imperative that our state stand  
up to government overreach by the federal  
government. Moreover, it is imperative  
that we protect our most valuable  
citizens from assaults on their civil  
liberties.

We need to know that our local  
law enforcement will have the State's  
support in guaranteeing civil rights  
to all of our fellow Coloradans,  
and will not be co-opted by the  
federal government for purposes that  
do not serve our fellow Coloradans  
or support our state's values.

I hope I can count on your support.

Very truly yours,

Daniel Culhane

Dear Judiciary Committee members and Colorado House Representatives:

In this time of harsh US Executive Branch invective, threats, orders, and potential federal legislation against citizens and non-citizens, which are contrary to the US Constitution and Bill of Rights, please stand with the people of Colorado to guarantee basic freedoms for all citizens of Colorado, irrespective of their religion, race, or country of origin. Republican Governor Ralph Carr stood up for those Coloradans of Japanese origin during their fear-driven internment of WWII, just as we should stand now with Coloradans of Mexican, South American, and Muslim country origin. Barring people from full participation in our country or targeting them in any way, does not protect us; this has been proven repeatedly. Any such actions detract from our identity as a democracy and protector of freedoms.

This Act would also send a clear message to our local law enforcement that Colorado State government will support them in guaranteeing civil rights to all Coloradans, irrespective of lines that the current Administration, and potentially Congress, may wish to draw.

Please support the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act to send a message to the feds: we in Colorado will support the civil rights of our fellow Coloradans, against any potential federal incursions.

Thank you.

Linda Drake  
80207

Support Colorado and states' rights. This bill, the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act, is needed to protect all Colorado residents from federal government overstepping. This is important for Colorado's economy and for the ability of our local law enforcement to fight crime. It also represents our commitment to basic human dignity. I stand in support of the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act.

Support this! Thank you.

Karen J. Johnson, M.Ed.  
Freelance Manuscript Editor  
Salida, CO 81201  
719-930-1759  
johnsoneditor@gmail.com



To Whom It May Concern

From: Professor K. H. Ochs, Emerita, CSM

About: Please Support the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act

I understand that the this bill supports local control in the limited case of preventing Colorado law enforcement officers from being legally compelled to help in setting up a registry for any group, or to become involved in some contemporary type of internment camps, or of limiting constitutional rights (and human rights) for targeted groups—groups based on race, religion, nationality. The right of free speech should also be included.

March 16, 2017

Colorado House Judiciary Committee  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: House Bill 17-1230 Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act

Dear House Judiciary Committee members and Colorado House Representatives,

As a citizen of Colorado, I urge you to support HB17-1230.

I am the proud daughter of an immigrant. Over the past 40 years my mother started several successful small businesses, worked incredibly long hours, generated jobs for the economy, and faithfully paid her taxes. She is well-known in her community for her tremendous generosity and hard work. And her many contributions have undoubtedly made this country a much better place.

It is imperative that we guard against violating the civil rights of Colorado citizens. I urge you to reject any attempts to target people based on race, religion, or immigration status. Please support the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act.

Thank you,  
Anne Sarsen  
Denver, CO

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act. I am 66 years old. My best friend growing up in South Minneapolis from the time I was 5 years old (in 1955) was Japanese American. We are still friends today. Her parents' stories of their lives and her grandparents' lives leading up to and while in the concentration camps HERE in America during World War II are part of an oral history now archived at [densho.org](http://densho.org). It broke my heart listening to them thinking how could we as Americans treat *anyone* this way. How could this happen in America?

This year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the forced removal of the Japanese into concentration camps during World War II. The treatment of these people was and as far as I am concerned continues to be a disgrace to our nation. We must prevent such atrocities from happening again.

Colorado needs to stand strong and be a model for this country and ensure equal protection for ALL of its residents against any attempt by the federal government to single out any particular person because of that person's race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, or religious affiliation.

Barbara Tidd  
28988 County Road 65  
Moffat, CO 81143  
719.221.8434  
[slvbarb498@gmail.com](mailto:slvbarb498@gmail.com)

I have lived around and worked around immigrants, legal and illegal, all my life. From my experience, they are all hard working, conscientious, family oriented, peaceful and good people only seeking a better condition for their lives. They pay more in taxes than they receive in benefits. The only barrier they face is the onerous immigration policies of the US. They are a source of economic prosperity with the labor they provide, the goods and services they consume while living here, and the expertise they contribute.

The current federal effort to detain and deport immigrants is solely an effort to stir up hostility, and create fear and instability in communities that don't deserve it. I applaud and support the Ralph Carr Bill. Make Colorado a place of welcome and encouragement for immigrants. We'll all be better off for it.

Chuck Tidd  
719-221-8433

Dear Judiciary Committee members and Colorado House Representatives:

As a United States Citizen, a patriot, a descendent of survivors of the Holocaust, as a neighbor to those who represent the great melting pot of this country being from various nations and ethnic backgrounds, as a human being, I urge you to support the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act.

I am not your Negro

I am not your Muslim

I am not you Mexican

I am not your Jew

I am not your Slave

I am not your Wetback

I am not your Other

In this time of harsh US Executive Branch invective, threats, orders, and potential federal legislation against citizens and non-citizens, which are contrary to the US Constitution and Bill of Rights, please stand with the people of Colorado to guarantee basic freedoms for all citizens of Colorado, irrespective of their religion, race, or country of origin. Republican Governor Ralph Carr stood up for those Coloradans of Japanese origin during their fear-driven internment pf WWII, just as we need to stand now with Coloradans of Mexican, South American, and Muslim country origin. Barring people from full participation in our country or targeting them in any way, does not protect us; this has been proven repeatedly. Any such actions detract from our identity as a democracy and protector of freedoms.

This Act would also send a clear message to our local law enforcement that Colorado State government will support them in guaranteeing civil rights to all Coloradans, irrespective of lines that the current Administration, and potentially Congress, may wish to draw.

Please support the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act to send a message to the feds. The citizens of Colorado support the civil rights of our fellow Coloradans against any potential federal attempts to abrogate those rights.

Thank you.

Melanie Weiss-Turner  
80207

To the Colorado House Judiciary Committee,  
I would like to support the Ralph Carr bill for the following reasons:

- 1) I strongly favor states rights
- 2) I am against federal overreach
- 3) Our state has a long and proud history of opposing federal overreach which we should continue
- 4) We presently have a very effective system for vetting immigrants from countries involved in terrorism

Thank you,

Eric Barandes  
Saguache , Colorado

I want to express my strong support for the Ralph Carr Freedom Defense Act. I am in my 70's and know people who were terrorized by fascist governments during the 1930's because of their religion or ethnicity. My children, growing up in California, had friends whose parents and grandparents were interned in camps because of their Japanese heritage, even though they were American citizens. I believe this bill will prevent Colorado from participating in any kind of national registry based on religion or ethnicity or other categories with the purpose of treating them differently and harshly. Ralph Carr, who opposed the Japanese internment camps in Colorado, is to be admired and followed today. The bill honors and recognizes his moral courage. He represented the values I as a Coloradoan and American cherish and want to see supported by our legislature with passage of this act.

Ellen T Bauder  
11300 Highland Cir  
Salida, CO 81201  
719-539-5344