

Dear Madam Chair,

My name is L. Richmond Riley and I represent myself as a resident of the state of Colorado.

I would like to express my opposition to House Bill 24-1039 concerning non-legal name changes for students in schools. I feel that this bill seriously undermines parental rights and the right of a parent to name their own child. If after much discussion and contemplation, the parents and child feel the need to make a change in the child's name, it should be done in a legal, binding manner. This is a family decision, not to be infringed upon by a task force from the state of Colorado.

This bill also will put additional strain on our teachers who are already facing added pressure to focus more and more time on non-academic ideology. The state of Colorado is already in an education crisis, with student's test scores lowering each year. In 2023, Colorado ranked # 30 out of 50 states. Do we really want to waste time threatening our teachers with discrimination when we should be supporting them and letting them get back to educating our children? It's no wonder that teacher numbers are declining. In 2023, 51,000 teachers quit their jobs in the United States. When faced with unending regulations and pressures, many leave teaching for less-stressful careers.

Another downside of this bill is the additional workload and expenses it will cause for school districts to implement it. This bill also does not give specific remedies for the discriminatory actions that it seems to demand. It is unclear, and needs further explanation.

Thank you for your time. I ask you to vote no on HB24-1039

Respectfully,

L.R. Riley



Dear House Education Committee,

On behalf of Moms for Liberty El Paso County, we encourage you to vote no on HB 24-1039 for the following reasons. We feel this is a direct attack on Parental Rights. One of the first things a parent does for their child is give them a name. Many names hold special meanings within their family. Such as being named after a family member, special time, or place. Allowing schools to take this away from the parents is damaging to the family unit and violates trust between parents, school systems, and state governments. This furthers an already very divided society.

This bill will create more work for school and district administrators and place more burden on teachers and staff. The way this bill is currently written, there is no limit on how many times a student can change their name, thus creating stress on an already overburdened system. This bill is an unnecessary measure that has no room for attention. Schools across Colorado are already having a hard time retaining teachers. This bill will make the task of keeping teachers even more difficult. Teachers will now be facing discrimination charges, which creates a destructive and stressful workplace and learning environment.

Included in this bill is a safety clause. We do not support the addition of a safety clause to this bill as this subject matter does not pose an imminent safety risk to the public at large.

We pledge to honor the fundamental rights of parents, including but not limited to the right to direct the education, medical care, and moral upbringing of their children. We pledge to advance policies and strengthen parental involvement and decision-making, increase transparency, defend against government overreach, and secure parental rights at all levels of government.

Thank you for hearing our concerns.

In Liberty,

Mom's for Liberty - El Paso County Board and Members

Mom's for Liberty - Boulder County and Members

As a physician assistant, I am concerned about HB24-1039 Non Legal Name Changes. It brings harm to the children, to their relationships with their parents, and it discriminates against teachers who may have a religious or cultural perspective about this issue.

The rise in percentage of children with gender dysphoria is concerning and needs to be evaluated more closely.

Studies have shown that adverse childhood experiences and trauma are likely to precede those with gender dysphoria whether it be neglect, rejection or psychological abuse. There is an average of 3.8 years of psychological disorders and suicide ideation prior to the diagnosis of gender dysphoria.

With this in mind, shouldn't these children receive mental health care in those years preceding their diagnosis?

Social transition (gender affirmation), use of puberty blockers followed by cross sex hormones and surgical intervention do not treat their underlying depression and suicidal ideation.

Social transition only leads to gender dysphoria persistence, confirming the new identity that would be hard to question later since parents and teachers have confirmed it.

Puberty blockers and cross sex hormones have shown to cause bone density loss and loss of fertility. The studies that purport to show its benefits are poor studies due to high bias, small sample sizes and other confounders.

Additionally, kids' brains are immature and there are unknowns how suppression of their puberty would affect their judgment and decision-making. Adolescents are more likely to depend on emotions and peer pressure (especially from social media), and they do not foresee long term consequences.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services determined that data is inconclusive for benefits for gender reassignment surgery, which is really an experimental treatment.

What is the solution to gender dysphoria? The first line treatment for gender dysphoria should be psychotherapy to help children with underlying mental disorders and eventually to help them understand their value as created in the image of God who created them either female or male. All the cells in our body reflect the XX for females or XY for males. Therefore, one cannot really change one's sex. Otherwise, we're just deceiving ourselves. Given time, most adolescents with gender dysphoria eventually align with their biological sex.

Those with gender dysphoria should learn from the detransitioners. The regrets of detransitioners are heart wrenching. Please check out their stories in this blog.
<https://www.reddit.com/r/detrans/>

There are other issues such as the inequity of trans girls competing in female sports, and the lack of safety and privacy in bathrooms and locker rooms for biological girls.

Please do not pass HB24-1039. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Josephine Dennison PA-C

References:

"Mental Health in Adolescence with Incongruence of Gender identity and Biological

Sex" Feb 2024 accessed 2/15/24

https://acpeds.org/position-statements/mental-health-in-adolescents-with-incongruence-of-gender-identity-and-biological-sex#_edn41

"Thousands of young people regret their gender transitions, and their stories are gut-wrenching" Oct 23, 2023 accessed 2/15/24

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/thousands-regret-gender-transitions-gut-wrenching/>

Katherine Newell Okojie, MDiv
katherinenewell3@gmail.com
Testimony for HB 24-1039 Non-Legal Name Changes
2/15/24

My name is Katherine Newell Okojie, and I am here to testify in support of HB 1039 as a mom, minister, and PTCO President.

As a proud mama of a transgender 3rd grader, I can attest to the power of calling a child by the name they proclaim. I would be appalled if her teacher didn't use her chosen name or pronouns, and even more concerned if she needed my "permission" first. Just as the bill states, I would consider it discrimination.

Sadly, there are dire consequences for not honoring a person's identity. Our daughter's other biological parent is very transphobic— even misgendering and dead naming her in conversation and official documents. As if the constant trauma of that isn't enough, I can't imagine if that parent had stopped the teacher from welcoming and valuing our child with her chosen name.

82% of transgender youth have considered killing themselves...this is a life or death situation, especially when these numbers are of epidemic proportions. My daughter's life matters. Her name matters.

As an interspiritual minister and chaplain, I want to make it extremely clear that being transgender is a gift from god. Identifying as queer in any capacity is a blessing. The universe supports humans who honor their unique, sacred expression of the divine. If that is through different pronouns or a name other than the one dictated at birth— great! None of this affects anyone else except the child becoming their best self.

Let classrooms continue to serve as holy ground for transformation and evolution. Support the beautiful bond between teachers and their students. This has nothing to do with parents. If a child changes their name and doesn't tell the parent— that's on the parent to do their inner work and take responsibility for the lack of trust in their relationship.

Lastly, this bill came to fruition through the important work of the Colorado Youth Advisory Council. These students can't even vote yet, and are so committed to making change they volunteer their time to pave new paths to safe, equitable schools. When they work this hard— **listen**. They know what is needed to improve their lives. Trust in our youth and the names they choose. Vote yes on HB 1039.

House Education

02/15/2024 01:30 PM

HB24-1039 Non-Legal Name Changes

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Angie Many Against themselves	<p>I am very much against HB24-1039, Non-Legal Name Changes. This is ridiculous, and just another way to encourage 'woke' nonsense. I don't have a problem with nicknames (my name is Angela, I go by Angie) but I think this law is designed to let students use any name they want, including that of the sex opposite their birth sex.</p> <p>And accusing school staff of discrimination for refusing to use the student's 'preferred name' is also ridiculous.</p> <p>You already have parents pulling their kids out of school because they are too often being indoctrinated instead of educated. Too many of our kids can't even read and write at grade level. Let's let schools concentrate on traditional education subjects: math, English, science, etc. instead of trying to mold minds into the latest fads.</p> <p>When kids get to be 21 they have the right to 'choose' their name and sex. Until then, they need to go by their birth sex and their birth name and associated nickname.</p>
Angie Many Against themselves	<p>I am very much against HB24-1039, Non-Legal Name Changes. This is ridiculous, and just another way to encourage 'woke' nonsense. I don't have a problem with nicknames (my name is Angela, I go by Angie) but I think this law is designed to let students use any name they want, including that of the sex opposite their birth sex.</p> <p>And accusing school staff of discrimination for refusing to use the student's 'preferred name' is also ridiculous.</p> <p>You already have parents pulling their kids out of school because they are too often being indoctrinated instead of educated. Too many of our kids can't even read and write at grade level. Let's let schools concentrate on traditional education subjects: math, English, science, etc. instead of trying to mold minds into the latest fads.</p> <p>When kids get to be 21 they have the right to 'choose' their name and sex. Until then, they need to go by their birth sex and their birth name and associated nickname.</p>

<p>Marq Weixelman For themselves</p>	<p>Hello, while my legal name is different than the one I go by. It is important to me that my preferred name be used, which is Marq. If I had the opportunity to be called that in school, it probably would have been a better experience than what I had. One simple acknowledgement of what I would like to be called is more affirming than one can believe. And I am for this bill, thank you for taking the time to read this.</p> <p>Marq</p>
<p>William Glover Against themselves</p>	<p>February 13, 2024</p> <p>To: Members of the Education Committee RE: House Bill 24-1039</p> <p>Thank you, Madam Chair,</p> <p>I voice my opposition to HB 24-1039.</p> <p>I believe in local control by people who know rural people the best.</p> <p>Sincerely, Bill Glover</p>
<p>Michael Glugla Against themselves</p>	<p>I would like to submit testimony with reference to HB 20-1039 "Concerning non-legal name changes for students in schools" I find that this bill is extremely vague in its intent and can be open to many different interpretations by the students, but also their parents and even the school districts. If the intent was to allow students to use their nicknames while at school, then this bill should have never been allowed to proceed as far as it currently stands. If however this bill allows students to self-transition their gender identity without their parents knowledge, and considers refusal of their requests as discriminatory, then this should bill should be disapproved. If our legislators are proposing that science is the driving force behind this bill, then they should review the recent WHO guidelines updated on January 15, 2024 that states gender affirmative care is not supported by evidence in children and adolescents. In addition, recent guidelines by the American College of Pediatricians ("Mental Health</p>

	<p>in Adolescents with Incongruence of Gender Identity and Biological Sex”, Feb 1, 2024) clearly states that gender identity social transitioning of children does not provide for improved psychological well being. If this bill becomes law, I am concerned that Colorado will become a sociological study based on poor scientific evidence, partisan political activism and not the consent of the population.</p>
<p>Stazi Snelling For themselves</p>	<p>I am in favor of this bill. I work in the prevention world and supporting youth with something as simple as using their preferred name can make more difference than you might imagine.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Noelle Strait For themselves</p>	<p>To whom it may concern—</p> <p>Although these discussions around non-legal name and pronouns may feel unimportant to some, they can be life saving for transgender, non-binary, and gender expansive students. A 2018 study entitled “ Chosen Name Use Is Linked to Reduced Depressive Symptoms, Suicidal Ideation, and Suicidal Behavior Among Transgender Youth” found that the risk of suicidal ideation can decrease by up to 56% when one’s name/pronouns are honored. It also showed that the risk of suicidal ideation continues to decrease with each additional context where names/pronouns are honored. When young folx in this community are facing suicide rates at 500-600% when compared to their cisgender peers, it is our responsibility to help decrease this percentage! LGBTQ+ young folx deserve to make it to adulthood! Let’s help them get there!</p> <p>Some argue that these types of efforts are anti-parents, which could not be further from the case. These issues are not student vs parent. These issues are about reducing the risk of suicide in young folx who are face extremely high rates of negative health outcomes. Thank you for your time and for considering the important impact this bill would have!</p>
<p>Andrya Towns Against themselves</p>	<p>This is an anti parent bill!! You can not keep parents out of childrens affairs! To keep the parents out of childrens affairs is dangerous they don’t know what they are doing or a want in life they are children. They change their mind so much over their lifetime and if you push this gender crap on them and one day they change their mind you have ruined this child’s life! Leave the children alone and then them make decisions after they are out of school and become adults...</p> <p>Genesis 1:27</p>

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them

Colorado has went against Gods idea of creation. He created two genders or sexes male and female... we have stepped away from the ways of the lord and now we are under judgment...

Deuteronomy 22:5 ESV

Matthew 19:4 ESV / 60 helpful votes

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,

1 Corinthians 11:12 ESV / 59 helpful votes

For as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman.
And all things are from God.

Leviticus 18:22 ESV / 49 helpful votes

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

These are the laws of the most Holy God... our country was founded by God fearing men and we have been free for a long time and now things are getting worse... homosexuality is in the rise, shootings, illegal immigrants are invading our country, violence and children are loosing control of what really matters, parents are loosing their children to the government and being told they can't intercept because it's hateful or it's wrong!! God gave us these precious children as a gift and we are to take care of them... this bill is outrageous and it's dangerous for all people...

I ask all of you to reconsider what your doing to our children and stop this nonsense and look to the Lord our God for guidance and

	<p>repent and believe that he is king and died for our sins and is coming back one day for his people! I pray all of you will accept him and lean on him instead of your own understanding... he's the way the truth and the life! Children belong to God not the government.</p>
<p>Ashley Hageman Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello.</p> <p>I'm lucky enough to be able to identify as a parent and a loving one at that. The minute I was able to hold my first born, my partner and I were overwhelmed by the amount of love we felt towards this child ,an emotion we've never felt before , this was a very different and scary kind of love. A love where you love this child no matter what happens or what they want to do, this is called unconditional love.</p> <p>When my oldest child was around 16 years old he was in a lot of mental distress and told us he felt like he was born in the wrong body.</p> <p>As a parent of a trans identifying person, I know that it is critical to let the parents know about how their kids is going. Just like if the child is failing school and or rumored to be bullying others or perhaps suspected of an eating disorder, these parents need to be informed immediately.</p> <p>That is why I am insisting this bill has language in it to notify the parents immediately.</p>
<p>Deanna Giles None themselves</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns. I have taught in the classroom for several years. I am concerned about the classroom. As the Education Committee it is so vital to make sure all legislation contributes to a fully functioning classroom, focused on teaching and learning. This bill could contribute to chaos. As a teacher I quickly learned my students names. This was vital to building rapport. This was difficult with a 30 student class size. Every class has students who create chaos. Should this bill pass, there would be students who would change their names often, maybe daily. "Call me Master", "Call me Dildo", "Call me Kunt with a K" are always a possibility. Not surprising, a June 2022 study by EdChoice, a nonprofit bipartisan group, showed 59% of teachers spend an hour a day dealing with disruption. I think if the bill moves forward, it would be important to have a task force that included seasoned educators. Parameters will need to be established to ensure good student/teacher rapport and minimize the potential for constant disruption. I am happy to volunteer for the task force. Thank you.</p>

<p>Cathy Gardino Against themselves</p>	<p>In a Northern California health system, 209 preteen or teen girls underwent double mastectomy as gender-affirming care between 2013 and 2020.</p> <p>15% of these girls were 12- or 13-years old.</p> <p>That's 32 girls who were 12- or 13-years old when they had their breasts removed.</p> <p>Most will tell you it began with a name change due to the installed belief they were in the wrong body.</p> <p>This bill is poison to body, mind and soul of a child.</p> <p>Reject this bill and it's authors for the ghouls that they are.</p>
<p>Cathy Gardino Against themselves</p>	<p>"You are essentially dissecting the vaginal cavity between the prostate and the rectum and there's literally no space there," he said. "So, you have to create a new plain in a spot that doesn't exist. So, you're very close to the rectum and it's very hard—it's very easy to get in there. We don't, I mean, the more you do it, the less risk you have, of course." "Complications can be pretty bad for vaginoplasty and the most-dreaded complication is to perforate the rectum while you are dissecting the vaginal cavity," Dr. Alex Laungani, a Canadian surgeon, who has "expertise in trans surgical care," said at an event sponsored by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH).</p> <p>Name changes, no matter how harmless they may seem, lead some youth here... to bodily mutilation. STOP THIS BILL</p>
<p>Michael Smith For themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Michael Smith, I am a Queer, Non Binary disabled Veteran. I implore you to vote yes on this bill. Queer youth are some of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities and we need to do everything possible to ensure they are seen and heard. Realizing that the name you were born with doesn't fit and claiming a new name is one of the most powerful tools people have for self advocacy. Arguments stating that young people can't make these decisions because they are too young have no basis and will not</p>

	<p>change the fact that these people exist and deserve to be protected and heard. I believe that young people do in fact know what is best for them, and by empowering them to make their own decisions we empower the next generation who will make a better world possible. Thank you for your time</p>
<p>Alex Sher For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Alex Sher and I encourage you to pass this bill. Ensuring all kids in schools can be addressed the way they want will reduce bullying and violence. This will support all Colorado children to have a greater likelihood of academic success.</p> <p>Some have argued this bill is against parents' autonomy. However, without this bill, schools could enforce calling children by their legal name and assigned pronouns at birth. This goes against parents who do call their children by their preferred name and pronouns when they are different than those assigned at birth. In addition, this could decrease the safety of children who aren't trans, but prefer to use a nickname for any reason.</p>
<p>Shandra Knight For themselves</p>	<p>Good afternoon Madame Chair and Members of the Committee. My name is Shandra Knight. I am here representing myself and respectfully ask for your support of HB-1039.</p> <p>When my son wanted a name change in elementary school, it didn't surprise me. Since the age of four, my biological daughter consistently expressed a preference for stereotypical boy clothes and activities. Thankfully, he felt comfortable coming to me, and our school supported his use of a new name.</p> <p>Of course, I had questions about what this would mean for our family, so I turned to the research and the science.</p> <p>I was appalled to learn how many LGBTQ youth don't live in a home that is affirming. That means for every young person who is embraced with respect and acceptance, another young person experiences intolerance, rejection, verbal abuse, or worse.</p> <p>In an ideal world, the interests of young people and their parents would align. But we don't live in an ideal world. And for some young people, school is their only safe place.</p>

	<p>I also learned that youth who found their school to be affirming reported lower rates of attempting suicide. Youth who had access to spaces that affirmed their gender identity reported lower rates of attempting suicide.</p> <p>All students deserve the opportunity to learn and thrive in schools that are free from discrimination. This bill aims to help educators build a foundation of best practices to support the safety and welfare of our children.</p> <p>We have an opportunity to reduce suicide ideation and attempts in our young people. We have an opportunity to show our children that we respect them as individuals. We have an opportunity to use actual science, not science fiction, to make informed decisions. I hope you will say yes to this opportunity.</p> <p>Please vote yes on HB-1039.</p>
<p>Abbey Cooper Against themselves</p>	<p>We have activists that have hijacked and are misrepresenting the law! Our educators should not be forced to address students by their "preferred name". This is bullying of our parents, teachers, and collective youth at our schools and community. Parents have the constitutional right to direct their child's upbringing and education. Parents have the fundamental right to direct the care, upbringing, and education of their children and this policy is Meant to deceive parents, is unethical, and unconstitutional! This proposed bill promotes the use of preferred pronouns and names. So does that mean that if a child comes to school with an inappropriate preferred nickname had a teacher is liable to call that student that name or she will be sued for discrimination? That is morally reprehensible and people should be ashamed of themselves for promoting such socially deceptive behavior! are CHILDREN, they are not adults that want to use gender affirming pronouns. They are the responsibility of their parents and the school is NOT their legal guardian or parent! This legislation is wrong! The job of teachers is to EDUCATE our children and youth not promote social deception. Parents are legally responsible for their children until 18. Leave and promote education at school. Transitioning youth or youth with proffered pronouns can join their LGBTQ Club at school and find a support amongst their peers that they so desire. We should be pushing legislation and bills to support and promote quality education in our public and charter schools!</p>

<p>Jeany Rush Against themselves</p>	<p>2-15-24</p> <p>TO: COLORADO LEGISLATURE &</p> <p>RE: HB24-1039 NON-LEGAL NAME CHANGES For Students in School</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH CONCERNED CONSTITUENT – PARENT-GRANDPARENT – GREAT GRANDPARENT -</p> <p>MY VOTE ON THIS BILL: FIRM AND TOTAL NO NO NO</p> <p>Remember the first time you held your precious babies in your arms? Do you remember the first time you held your first grandchild in your arms? These precious souls looked us in the eyes, and trusted us to protect them from all harm and fears of this world!!!!!! Well now, very criminal and sick people are passing laws, indeed have passed laws, giving them the right to rip those children from your arms, and expose them to dangers, we as good parents would never, ever, have endorsed or allowed!!</p> <p>They can accuse you of not being gender affirming enough, which is another word for mutilation/rape of your children mentally and physically. Laws allow counselors, like American School Counselor Association, American Psychiatric Association, and American Library Association, to influence, expose, and rape your children with materials, be it books, videos, computer programs, etc. without your even knowing it as a parent. If you displease, they can remove your children, and put them into a more understanding foster homes, even with people who may be LGBTQ or trans-gender supposedly more understanding. (DR. ABIGAIL SCHRIER, DR. MIRIAM GROSSMAN)</p> <p>Complete strangers can tell your children they may want to change the sex with which they were born. This is done without your knowledge. Your 12 year old child can be given puberty blockers, (See Lupron law suits settled (\$874,000,000) which are known to do horrible damage to young bodies, without your knowledge if they remove the child from your very homes.</p> <p>As our legislators you all are complicit with the promotion of minors' / children being indoctrinated both sexually and medically, not to mention mentally with your illegal bills, and edicts. These types of bills become further the GATEWAYS for normalizing the wrong walk into school and life before a child is even the AGE OF CONSENT! Lets' not forget the theft of the parental rights to protect children from further confusion.</p> <p>THIS type of bill IS overreach of government, AND RAPE of our childrens' minds and bodies.</p>
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	<p>So not only do I want a NO vote, I want the future to hold legally accountable all those harming our nation's youth mentally and physically.</p> <p>AN OUTRAGED GRANNY</p>
<p>Allison Avery-Wollenhaupt For themselves</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of HB24-1039. As an art teacher of twelve years, I can only see the benefits of solidifying this into law. Many LGBTQ+ students first choose to disclose to a trusted adult before coming out to their families. By confiding in a trusted adult (often teachers) and representing themselves with a name of their choosing, they are taking an important step towards living their own truths. It is empowering for them, and hurts no one. I will always support legislation that helps affirm out LGBTQ+ students, as we all know the risk of suicide and mental health issues can be daunting for this vulnerable population.</p> <p>Please make the right choice for our kids today, and vote yes on this important, gender affirming bill!</p>
<p>Parrot Pembleton For themselves</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Parrot Pembleton and I am a fourteen year old transgender student, I am currently homeschooled, and also attend APEX Homeschool Program under SVVSD. Today I am asking you to support this bill, which would help affirm transgender students. If this bill is passed it would help create a more inclusive school system for students, and help reduce misgendering, as well as reduce the mental stress that comes with that.</p> <p>I, as a transgender student in the school system, have to deal with constant misgendering and deadnaming, and this bill would help to change that for the better.</p> <p>And as a student who is currently trying to change their name in the school system, this bill would make that process easier for me. As well make me feel more included and accepted in school.</p> <p>I am constantly being called two different names at school and at home, which puts a lot of stress on me, and makes it harder for me to focus at school, as I am being called by the wrong name.</p>

	<p>As I am also going into high school this fall, and will be changing my name in that schools system, this bill would make that process much more simple for me and my family.</p> <p>This bill will make it easier for my parents as well, as they will not have to deal with teachers using a different name for me than they use, and any confusion that would cause.</p> <p>And it is because of these reasons that I am asking you to please vote in support of this bill, which would reduce the misgendering that students face, and make the process of changing their names in the school system easier for students and parents.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<p>Roland Rainey Against himself</p>	<p>Members of the Committee</p> <p>Our educational institutes are the critical foundations to ensure are kids are prepared to become effective, contributing members of our society, and engage the world. It's a place where lifetime relationships are formed and the journey of learning blossoms.</p> <p>However, while these institutes are foundational, it's the core/nucleus of the family unit that effect our the lens of our kids and how they see the world. The love, trust, taught values, character building, and relationship between parent and child is something that no government entity should interfere with.</p> <p>This proposed bill invites unnecessary and unwarranted problem sets into the family home via the school.</p> <p>Our teachers are there to educate, not become political pawns with parent and child.</p> <p>I implore this committee to strike this bill and focus on more important matters pertaining to housing, taxes, economic vitality, etc. and not ask the schools to intervene or be held accountable for matters that's between a parent and child.</p>
<p>Roland Rainey Against himself</p>	<p>Members of the Committee</p> <p>Our educational institutes are the critical foundations to ensure our kids are prepared to become effective, contributing members of our</p>

	<p>society, and engage the world. It's a place where lifetime relationships are formed and the journey of learning blossoms.</p> <p>However, while these institutes are foundational, it's the core/nucleus of the family unit that affect the lens of our kids and how they see the world. The love, trust, taught values, character building, and relationship between parent and child is something that no government entity should interfere with.</p> <p>This proposed bill invites unnecessary and unwarranted problem sets into the family home via the school.</p> <p>Our teachers are there to educate, not become political pawns between parent and child.</p> <p>I implore this committee to strike this bill and focus on more important matters pertaining to housing, taxes, economic vitality, etc. and not ask the schools to intervene or be held accountable for matters that's between a parent and child.</p>
<p>Debra Schmidt Against themselves</p>	<p>This is a grotesque overreach of government. Taking away parental rights is how Stalin, Lenin, Hitler and Mao took over their countries and the result was millions of dead. You have no right to compel speech in any form. And how about put a category for " Mrs." in your TITLE above? By leaving it out you are being extremely exclusive. I can't even correct it because of the algorithm you have set up for it. I will not choose from your pronoun list either, how insulting. Quick to call a boy a girl but can't call a Mrs. a Mrs.? Vote no on this gateway to mutilation.</p>
<p>Erik Kluzek For themselves</p>	<p>I grew up as a conservative Lutheran in even more conservative Utah. My LDS wife and I have been married for 35 years, and when we moved to Colorado we were frightened about "crazy liberal Boulder". We thought that transgender children were just the results of liberal parents who wanted an opposite gender child. But, we had both genders we thought 1 boy and 2 girls. So when the impossible happened and we found out our youngest was a transgender girl -- we realized we had to rethink this whole thing. In order to support our daughter and to have reasonable mental health for her -- supporting her gender identity was vital. And it's allowed her to be happy in her own skin and be someone who can contribute to society. An important step there was to start changing her name. We were able to change it in BVSD with no problem as well as change it on her insurance card. And that really helped her! We've done this now with legal name and gender marker changes, but being able to do this in school was vital for her mental health and general wellness. Like me you may be more conservative and think this is some "liberal nonsense" -- but it's not. And transgender children are parts of all</p>

	families across the political spectrum. This is something that will improve their lives. So I urge you to vote yes on HB24-1039. Thank you.
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