

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado General Assembly

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Lori Gimelshteyn and Erin Lee
FROM: Legislative Council Staff and Office of Legislative Legal Services
DATE: December 28, 2023
SUBJECT: Proposed Initiative Measure 2023-2024 #115, Concerning Parental Rights and Responsibilities

Section 1-40-105 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, requires the directors of the Colorado Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services to "review and comment" on initiative petitions for proposed laws and amendments to the Colorado constitution. We hereby submit our comments to you regarding the appended proposed initiative.

The purpose of this statutory requirement of the directors of Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services is to provide comments intended to aid proponents in determining the language of their proposal and to avail the public of knowledge of the contents of the proposal. Our first objective is to be sure we understand your intent and your objective in proposing the amendment. We hope that the statements and questions contained in this memorandum will provide a basis for discussion and understanding of the proposal.

An earlier version of this proposed initiative, proposed initiative 2023-2024 #103, was the subject of memoranda dated December 4, 2023, which was discussed at a public meeting on December 6, 2023. The substantive and technical comments and questions raised in this memorandum will not include comments and questions that were addressed at the earlier meeting, except as necessary to fully understand the issues raised by the revised proposed initiative. However, the prior comments and questions that are not restated here continue to be relevant and are hereby incorporated by reference in this memorandum.

Purpose

The major purpose of the proposed amendment to the Colorado Revised Statutes appears to be to enshrine the fundamental and inalienable right for parents to direct the upbringing of their children.

Substantive Comments and Questions

There are no new substantive comments or questions.

Technical Comments

The following comments address technical issues raised by the form of the proposed initiative. These comments will be read aloud at the public meeting only if the proponents so request. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about these comments at the review and comment meeting. Please consider revising the proposed initiative as suggested below.

1. The text of the language being added to the Colorado Revised Statutes should be in SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS, not ALL CAPITAL.