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Vote NO on Colorado HB25-1231

1 message

SHEILA ANNE BYRNES <sheilabyrnes@icloud.com>

Sun, Feb 23, 2025 at 8:23 PM

To: amanda.king@coleg.gov

As an educator of 40+ years, this bill is demeaning and degrading to parents and teachers at the highest levels. Stop this bill from moving forward as it sets a very dangerous precedent. The few with volatile agendas, need to be stopped from damaging our children - there are plenty of laws already on the books that protect them from pornography, as defined by law (not monied moms).

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Amanda King <amanda.king@coleg.gov>

Vote NO on HB25-1231

Mindy Nelson <mindyncnelson@mac.com>
To: amanda.king@coleg.gov

Sun, Feb 23, 2025 at 4:28 PM

I am writing to encourage a No vote on this bill. Sexual content exposure is imperative to teach students and minors and couching any sexual content as “pornography” is dangerous and misleading. The definition of pornography has been applied in my school district in Elizabeth Colorado as any mention of gay or transgender characters and will further the blatant censorship from this category in the form of book bans and more.

Does this mean a minor can't be taken to a PG13 movie? A 17 year old can't go to a concert if the musician has sexual content in the lyrics? Is the anatomy poster on my wall sexual content? Can I kiss my husband in public?

There is nothing innately “pornographic” about sexuality. Who determines what is appropriate for my child's maturity level? Who defines “pornography” in this context; a term that is classically difficult to define?

Coloradans appreciate personal liberty and this bill seeks to revoke this freedom when it comes to the most personal of topics.

Vote NO.

Sent from my iPhone

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

02/24/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1231 Protect Minors from Sexual or Pornographic Content

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Chelsea Kueht Against themselves	<p>My name is Chelsea Kueht and I am writing in opposition to House Bill 25-1231, which purports to protect minors from exposure to sexual content but, in reality, risks the suppression of constitutionally protected materials and programs, particularly those that center LGBTQ+ themes and characters. I am a parent, educator, librarian and ally. I am representing myself.</p> <p>The First Amendment and existing legal precedent already provide clear guidelines for what constitutes obscenity and what is permissible under the law. <i>Miller v. California</i> (1973) established the standard for defining obscenity, requiring that material must meet a three-pronged test before being deemed legally obscene. This ensures that only the most extreme, explicit content can be restricted and that broader categories of speech—including educational materials, literature, and artistic expression—are not unlawfully censored. Furthermore, <i>Board of Education v. Pico</i> (1982) reaffirmed that local authorities cannot remove books from libraries simply because they dislike their content or disagree with the ideas presented.</p> <p>Despite these well-established legal protections, we have seen numerous recent efforts to mischaracterize LGBTQ+ books, performances, and events as obscene or harmful to minors. These attempts have disproportionately targeted literature and programming that affirms the existence and experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals. In reality, these materials are neither explicit nor inappropriate; rather, they offer representation, support, and education that benefit all students, particularly those who may feel isolated or marginalized.</p> <p>A prime example of this misrepresentation is the ongoing attacks on Drag Queen Story Time. This program is not pornography, nor is it inappropriate for children. It is no different than any other person putting on a costume to read a story—just as a librarian might dress as a beloved book character or a performer might embody a figure from folklore. The purpose of Drag Queen Story Time is to promote literacy, creativity, and inclusivity. It teaches children the values of acceptance, self-expression, and celebrating who they are. There is nothing inherently sexual or harmful about a person in costume reading books that encourage kindness and understanding.</p> <p>HB 25-1231, as written, provides vague definitions that could be weaponized to suppress LGBTQ+ content under the guise of protecting minors. The bill's broad</p>

	<p>language could lead to undue censorship, placing educators, librarians, and community organizations at risk of punitive measures simply for providing access to diverse perspectives.</p> <p>Colorado already has laws that prevent the distribution of truly obscene materials to minors. The additional restrictions proposed in this bill are unnecessary and dangerous, potentially silencing voices that deserve to be heard. I urge the committee to reject HB 25-1231 and instead uphold the constitutional protections that ensure access to diverse and inclusive educational materials for all students.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Jeralee Gonzalez Against themselves</p>	<p>Testimony HB 25-1231 OPPOSE</p> <p>My name is Jeralee Gonzalez. I live in Woodland Park. I am representing myself.</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 25-1231. I want to make it clear from the outset that I do not support pornography in any form, nor do I believe children should be exposed to sexually explicit material. However, this bill, while framed as a measure to protect children, lacks critical safeguards and clear definitions that raise concerns about how it will be enforced and who will ultimately determine what constitutes "pornographic material".</p> <p>One major concern is the potential for selective enforcement. Under this bill, would individuals who have already exposed children to sexually explicit material on school grounds be held accountable? In Woodland Park School District, an adult man was allowed to speak during the August 9, 2023 BOE meeting where he graphically discussed masturbation, blow jobs, and other explicit acts while children were present both in person and on zoom. In another instance, an Academy D20 BOE Director spoke at an elementary school in Colorado Springs, where he read passages from a book containing sexually explicit material-including incest and abuse-that book was not available in elementary or middle school libraries. His reading scared and even traumatized some young children, leaving parents and school staff deeply concerned. I have linked both videos of these men at the end of my testimony.</p> <p>If this bill is truly about protecting children, will it hold accountable those who bring sexually explicit discussions into school environments under the guise of political advocacy or moral outrage? Or will it primarily be used as a tool to censor certain perspectives while allowing others to evade consequences?</p> <p>Another concern is the vague and subjective nature of the bill's language. Without precise definitions, there is a real danger that the law could be weaponized against</p>

	<p>LGBTQ+ literature, comprehensive sex education, or even health-related discussions, while allowing harmful and exploitative behaviors to continue unchecked. Schools and educators could feel pressured to self-censor, depriving students of critical, age-appropriate knowledge about consent, bodily autonomy, and healthy relationships—all while politically motivated actors continue to exploit children for their own agendas without consequence.</p> <p>True child protection requires clear, enforceable standards that apply equally to all, without ideological bias or selective enforcement. If HB25-1231 does not provide such safeguards, it risks becoming a political tool rather than a meaningful measure for child safety.</p> <p>I urge lawmakers to consider these concerns seriously and ensure that any legislation aimed at protecting children is applied consistently and fairly, holding all violators accountable—not just those who fit a particular narrative.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>WPSD BOE Timestamp 36:58 http://www.youtube.com/live/FZg8-V4xUpk?si=mYfjMA2a15oeLFW</p> <p>D20 Student led BOE Candidate Forum Timestamp 46:52 http://youtu.be/ks2kYviCmTQ?si=i02CJ2OWyK5ODfpy</p>
<p>Joseph York For themselves</p>	<p>I Support this bill!</p>
<p>Jessica Capsel Against themselves</p>	<p>As a parent and a citizen living in the Elizabeth School District where the school board arbitrarily banned books containing what they felt was inappropriate and what they labeled as pornographic and disgusting simply because they deemed anything related to LGBTQ+ topics was therefore pornographic, I see this bill as a slippery slope into only certain individuals deciding what is appropriate and what isn't.</p> <p>This bill sets parents up for being punished for letting their children read "banned books" or for taking their children to age-appropriate entertainment events that they feel are perfectly acceptable for their kids to partake in but someone else might not. And despite the claim that there are exceptions for schools and libraries, this bill sets</p>

	<p>up teachers and librarians for being investigated if one person simply disagrees with something the teacher thought was considered safe but someone else disagrees with.</p> <p>This bill allows for vigilante justice in allowing anyone to report a "violate" anonymously then putting the burden of proof on the parent or the teacher who was anonymously reported. There is nothing to stop someone from weaponizing this law against someone they have ideological disagreements with. For example, people who disagree with the Elizabeth School District's book ban and who believe the banned books should be placed back into the Elizabeth School District libraries, several citizens have been called names like "disgusting insane groomer who wants to give pornography to children." What's to stop these people from using this law to report these Elizabeth citizens who oppose this book ban? Putting an undue burden on them to prove themselves innocent and also puts an undue burden on law enforcement to have to chase down these anonymous reports.</p> <p>This bill sounds like it was written by an extremist group like Moms for Liberty which is rich considering they claim to support "parents' rights" yet this bill takes away a parent's right to decide what is best for their own children.</p> <p>Please vote NO on this ridiculous bill.</p>
<p>Jeany Rush For themselves</p>	<p>TO: State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee RE: HB25-1231 Protect Minors from Sexual or Pornographic Content Sponsor: Keltie 2-24-25 FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs, Constituent VOTE: YES Emphatic YES</p> <p>We need bills like this to drive home the growing acceptance of Depravity in our state of Colorado, as well as other states. We actually know that at some of the pride fests/shows, there were tables with sex items displayed for anyone to see.</p> <p>The content in the books, media, internet links is outright porn' material. While we recognize the rights of libraries to carry materials, they should not be readily available to the general public at schools, or public events where children are also in attendance.</p> <p>This bill brings back dignity, decency, and protection of our innocent children. It further protects the actual rights of minors in public spaces. The tragedy is we have fallen so far, we need more and more bills to protect us from more and more bills that took away our childrens' rights and innocence. And a further tragedy is that these items are becoming more and more prevalent in our public institutions, spaces, and our childrens' lives way too early.</p> <p>Thanks for this Bill</p>

<p>Donna LaBelle For themselves</p>	<p>I hope to testify in person or online but am signed up for two other bills so in case I can't make this one I would like to send in my written testimony. Thank you! HB25-1231 Protect Minors from Sexual or Pornographic Content</p> <p>Even AI – all brain and no human heart says that laws are made to protect individuals and groups from various forms of harm and discrimination. Speaking as a mother to people with a heart, please protect our children! Pornography affects future relationships in a negative way. It is addicting, brain altering, anxiety producing and dehumanizing. It can incite violence, fuel racism, make abuse acceptable, and create or exacerbate mental issues. Pornography pours gasoline on the depraved fires of human trafficking which puts an incredibly black mark on the American report card. Pornography literally steals a child's innocence and therefore their childhood. I believe that sex was made for loving, forever relationships but whether you feel that way or not, there is a line I hope we all agree that should not be crossed and that concerns our children. It is very sad that we would need a law for this but if ever we did it is now. For the sake of Colorado's children, please vote yes!</p>
<p>Desra Conrad For themselves</p>	<p>Vote YES for HB25-1231</p> <p>Children cannot defend themselves. One look at these abusive, grooming, horrific materials can cause the mind of a child to be so confused and harmed. Which is what the subversive ones want. Vote YES to protect the children! Most people may not know these materials exist and so won't voice their concerns. But El Paso County schools and libraries have an abundance, this I know and I'm sure they are not the only county. This is cruel and harmful to children who innocently see these pictures in books of all ages, or read words that affect their minds in a moment. IF people knew these materials/books were there, you would hear outcries! I don't know one adult who wants to see or read these they are SO bad and most school boards want to walk away from hearing them. Thats how deplorable they are. STOP THE ABUSE. Do the right thing and vote YES on HB25-1231</p>