



February 2025

To: House State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee
Re: HB1266- Colorado American Indian recognition Day

Dear 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 research, education and advocacy. More than 700 community leaders are members of AAUW branches around Colorado.

Colorado has made significant progress over the past few years in recognizing, and making long-overdue apologies for, the victimization of women and girls that continues to have a generational impact on our Native American community. It is well past time to honor American Indian cultures, histories, and sovereignty. By highlighting both the resilience and the challenges faced by Native American communities, the bill aims to ensure that their stories and legacies remain an integral part of Colorado's history.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB1266 to establish Colorado American Indian Recognition Day and requests your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Su Ryden
AAUW Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

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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.