

My name is Samantha Revie. I am a Colorado native and your constituent. I oppose HB21-1136 because it is fundamentally detrimental to the checks and balances needed to keep Colorado's Judicial system held to the standard necessary for fair and just execution that our nation's democracy depends on.

The judicial system is critical to maintaining order and justice in the lives of all Americans. When used correctly, this system is powerful in protecting those that need it most and upholding for the critical areas that support necessary infrastructure and economic stability.

If the court system is so vital to our very way of life then we should protect its sanctity and promote its just actions. This bill is contrary to that ideal. HB21-1136 is a risk to all Coloradans. If enacted, you should be prepared to accept the risk of severe damage to the state in various detrimental forms. The range of detriment extends from economic ruin (expect to see heavy influence and involvement from corporations that may disrupt and destroy economic sectors like agriculture and tourism) to general upheavals across the populace (judges wield immense power that affects the lives and families of all).

This bill comes at a time just months after Denver media outlets uncovered multiple scandals within the Colorado Supreme Court including former Chief Justice Nathan "Ben" Coats. Now is not the time to reward bad behavior. If Colorado truly has a shortage of judges there are other ways to rectify- including programs for increasing the pipeline of potential judges early in their careers.

Please vote no on HB21-1136.

My name is Nancy Fingerhood and I oppose HB21-1136 because this bill unequivocally allows judges who should have been disciplined to get back on the bench.

With lifetime appointments, justices are free to push their personal, ideological agendas for decades with almost no accountability.

No term limits are fundamentally anti-democratic and serve no one but the judge. It does not serve the people and family court litigants already face so much injustice and failure of due process.

Lifetime appointments are selfish and unfair to democratic development

Judge Patricia Herron gave abuser Anthony Tesoriero another night with his son Ty Tesoriero. He was murdered that night. What happens when Herron retires? She was not reprimanded. She would be eligible for a lifetime appointment.

Judge Robert L. McGahey, Jr. is on the waitlist yet a mother has stated to me he did not care about the abuse of her child and gave her ex 50 percent parenting time.

Judge Leslie Gerbracht is biased against mothers and gave custody to an abuser.

It is better to have MORE eyes on these hearings and trials so there is more accountability.

In Colorado once a judge is appointed by the governor with the guidance of a local judicial nominating commission, he or she serves a fixed term until retention comes up on the ballot again. The Commissions on judicial performance conduct evaluations of judges and then provides voters with their recommendations in the State Ballot Information Booklet. This year, all nine district court judges within the first district were deemed to meet performance standards. William Banta, a State Judicial Performance Commission member in 2005 and 2006, noted the omission of actual job performance reviews and criticized "a lack of analytical content in the write-ups for the voters."

It would be difficult to unseat a lackadaisical judge who became complacent with his or her position and didn't work as hard.

In 2014, three judges were given "do not retain" evaluations and only one was voted out.

In 2016, two judges were given "do not retain" evaluations and only one was voted out.

In 2018, 136 judges were evaluated, but only 128 are on election ballots. Eight chose to not seek retention, meaning they will step down or resign. There's no clear way of knowing if they were about to receive a poor evaluation.

"Only one third of Colorado voters feel they are sufficiently informed to decide which judges should be retained," according to a 2014 survey commissioned by the state government.

“Further, only one-quarter of Colorado voters feel that most of the electorate has enough information.”

A 2016 Denver 9News (NBC) story, “Colorado judges win elections despite bad reviews” converted the “official” performance review survey results into letter grades for each of the 108 judges appearing on the 2016 ballot. Amazingly, just like Lake Woebegone, all of the judges were graded “above average” (letter grades ranging from a high of “A-” to a low of “B-” with the vast majority receiving a “B+” grade).

When every judge appearing on the ballot is graded “above average” how can voters distinguish between “the good, the bad, and the ugly?”

Do we have a shortage of judges? Is this really necessary?

The judicial system we rely upon to protect us is unwilling to stop impunity among its own.

Please vote NO on HB21-1136. Thank you.