

**Senate Judiciary**

**02/24/2025 01:30 PM**

**HB25-1050 Regional County Jail Approach**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Mary-Katherine Brooks-Fleming Amend League of Women Voters Colorado	<p>My name is Mary-Katherine Brooks Fleming and I speak on behalf of the 1800 members of the Colorado League of Women Voters across the state as I ask you to Amend Sb25-1050 to explicitly ban outsourcing of these rural jails and prisons to private prison companies.</p> <p>Many states have turned to private prisons to address the issues of prison overcrowding and the capital expense of building new prisons, and to reduce the cost of prison operations. Colorado is no exception. The league of women voters in general opposes privatization of public services, as any cost savings are quickly consumed by the need for stringent state oversight procedures as well as statewide study teams in place to monitor changes in patterns of incarceration when for-profit incentives are involved. Colorado has had more than enough scandal in recent years, between the corrupt family court officers and the mess with a rogue forensic scientist, increasing the number of private prisons opens our great state up to further scandal not to mention potentially horrific outcomes for citizens.</p> <p>We are sensitive to the financial needs of our members in our rural counties and understand the appeal of outsourcing key infrastructure. However, we cannot allow more outsourcing without also increasing supervision in tandem. Thus, we beseech you to amend this bill to explicitly ban contracting with private prison companies, OR increase the fiscal note to account for appropriate statewide oversight. Thank you.</p>