

House Health & Human Services

02/19/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1097 Placement Transition Plans for Children

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Mariana Pino For Raise The Future	<p>Testimony in Support of HB25-1097 Presented to the Committee</p> <p>Mr. or Madam Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Mariana Pino, Vice President of Programs at Raise the Future, and I am here to express my strong support for HB25-1097.</p> <p>At Raise the Future, we believe that every child deserves to grow up with the stability and support of a caring adult. Since 1983, our organization has been dedicated to ensuring that youth not only find permanent connections but also build healthy, healing relationships that allow them to thrive.</p> <p>Children in the foster care system already face immense uncertainty. The experience of removal from their homes, combined with frequent transitions between placements, compounds their trauma. Research tells us that stability, predictability, and attachment to a caring adult are essential for a child's well-being. Yet, too often, transitions between out-of-home placements lack transparency and consistency, causing unnecessary disruption and distress.</p> <p>HB25-1097 addresses this critical issue by establishing structured transition plans for children moving between placements. These plans will provide clarity, minimize trauma, and ensure that children are better supported during these difficult changes. A well-coordinated transition process will help maintain a child's existing relationships with caregivers, family members, and their broader community—connections that are essential to their emotional and psychological health.</p>

	<p>The consequences of instability in the foster care system are severe. When transitions are not handled with care, children experience increased placement disruptions, lower educational attainment, and a higher likelihood of aging out of the system without a permanent family. National statistics show that one in five youth aging out of foster care will become homeless immediately. Less than 4% will earn a college degree, and over 70% of young women will become pregnant by age 21. The long-term cost to taxpayers for each young person who ages out without support exceeds \$300K in public assistance, housing, and other services in the first ten years.</p> <p>We have an opportunity today to change this trajectory.</p> <p>By supporting HB25-1097, we can provide foster youth in Colorado with the stability they need to build secure, trusting relationships and ultimately achieve permanency. This is not just about improving outcomes for these children—it is also a fiscally responsible investment that prevents costly interventions down the line.</p> <p>To truly raise the future, we must raise the bar for how we support our most vulnerable youth. This bill is a necessary and urgent step in that direction. I respectfully urge a yes vote on HB25-1097.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Mariana Pino, Vice President of Programs Raise the Future</p>
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February 2025

To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Re: AAUW Support for HB1097—Placement Transition Plans for Children

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 AAUW members in local branches around the state.

AAUW has led the fight for economic empowerment for women, and we have made progress over the years. Yet women continue to face barriers to reach our full potential. Education is key to overcoming these barriers and it becomes even more difficult for young girls in foster care. Not only have their lives have been disrupted, they may be subject to ongoing, frequent, or unexpected moves from one placement to another. The impact on their ability to learn can be devastating.

HB1097 offers hope, by providing a framework for creating consistency in transitioning children from one placement to another and to prevent children from experiencing unnecessary or abrupt placement changes that affect their well-being or sense of security. A training requirement will also insure that those who are directly involved can ensure that the transition is child-centered, trauma-informed, and in compliance with the rights of children and youth in foster care.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB1097 and urges your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

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.