



Vote NO on HB25-1188: A Threat to Families & Medical Rights

What HB25-1188 Claims vs. What It Actually Does

HB25-1188 is promoted as a way to improve mandatory reporting laws and reduce bias in child welfare investigations. However, this bill expands government overreach, increases wrongful removals, and erodes parental rights under the guise of child protection.

Key Problems with HB25-1188

1. Increases False or Exaggerated Reports and Harmful and Unnecessary Interventions

- Requires mandatory reports to be filed within 24 hours (§19-3-304(1)(a)), leaving no time to verify facts before triggering a CPS investigation.
- Mandates that all suspicions must be reported, even if based on uncertainty (§19-3-304(3.3)(a)), leading to frivolous and retaliatory reports.
- Institutions cannot prevent false reports, even when they know the allegations are unfounded (§19-3-304(3.3)(b)).

2. Expands Medical Abuse Definitions, Facilitating “Medical Kidnapping”

- The bill does not clearly define medical abuse, allowing CPS to accuse parents for seeking second opinions, refusing psychotropic drugs, or choosing alternative treatments.
- Targets children with disabilities and complex medical needs by making it easier to remove them from their families.
- Creates financial incentives for institutionalization, as children in state custody qualify for higher federal reimbursements than those in home care.

3. Fails to Address Retaliatory and False Reports Used to Weaponize CPS

- No penalties for false reports, allowing CPS to be weaponized in divorces, custody battles, and personal disputes.
- No mechanism to protect families from being reported due to their race, socioeconomic status, or disability, despite acknowledging bias issues (§19-3-304(3.2)).

4. Reduces Due Process & Legal Protections for Families

- Hearsay reports can be used in court without cross-examination (§19-3-307(4)), meaning parents cannot challenge false allegations.
- No independent review of CPS decisions, leaving families with no recourse if wrongly investigated.

What HB25-1188 Should Include to Actually Protect Families

- ✓ Create penalties for false and retaliatory reports (e.g., fines or criminal charges).
- ✓ Require evidence before medical abuse claims can lead to removal.
- ✓ Allow parents to challenge CPS findings before removal occurs.
- ✓ Implement independent review boards for CPS and APS cases.
- ✓ Provide legal recourse for families wrongly investigated.

Vote NO or Demand Major Amendments to HB25-1188

This bill does not protect children—it expands a system already prone to corruption, bias, and financial incentives for wrongful removals. Until proper safeguards are in place, HB25-1188 should be voted down.