



Vote NO on HB 25-1200: A False Fix for Child Protection

What HB25-1200 Claims vs. What It Actually Does

HB25-1200 is marketed as a reform to strengthen the CPO, but in reality, it maintains the status quo—shielding government agencies from true accountability while doing little to protect children and families.

Key Problems with HB25-1200

1. No Real Accountability

- The CPO cannot intervene in legal cases or provide records for use in court (§19-3.3-103(1)(a)(I)(C)). Families wronged by CPS cannot access Ombudsman findings to support their cases.

- The CPO can only make recommendations, but CPS and government agencies are not required to follow them.

2. No Subpoena Power

- The Ombudsman cannot compel agencies to turn over records or testimony (§19-3.3-103.4(4)). If CPS refuses to cooperate, there is no recourse.

3. Limited Access to Information

- The CPO can review some child welfare records, but is barred from accessing:
 - Judicial records related to child protection cases.
 - Court-appointed advocate files.
 - Independent child evaluations, which are often critical in wrongful removal cases (§19-3.3-103(2)(a)(III)).
- This creates a one-sided narrative, where the Ombudsman only sees CPS's version of events.

4. Weak Oversight of State-Run Facilities

- The Ombudsman can only visit “if facilities allow access” and must coordinate visits in advance (§19-3.3-112(1)(a)).
- No surprise inspections—abusive facilities can simply clean up before a scheduled visit.

5. Public Relations Over Real Reform

- The bill emphasizes workshops and outreach instead of actual oversight.
- Without enforcement power, outreach does nothing to prevent misconduct.

What HB25-1200 Should Include to Actually Protect Families

- ✔ Grant subpoena power to obtain critical records and testimony.
- ✔ Require CPO findings be made available to families and used in court.
- ✔ Mandate CPS compliance with Ombudsman recommendations.
- ✔ Allow unannounced inspections of facilities.

Vote NO on HB25-1200 Until It Provides Real Accountability

This bill does not protect children—it protects the system from oversight. Legislators must amend or reject HB25-1200 to ensure real reforms that hold CPS and child welfare agencies accountable.

Carl Roberts
Executive Director

ColoradoResilience.org

Carl@ColoradoResilience.org
[303-810-5279](tel:303-810-5279)