

House Transportation, Housing & Local Government

02/12/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1032 Improving Infrastructure to Reduce Homelessness

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Paula Gruentzel For themselves	I SUPPORT this bill. Affordable housing must be accessible to all Coloradans.

HB25-1032: Improving Infrastructure to Reduce Homelessness

Written Committee Testimony

House Transportation, Housing & Local Government

February 19, 2025

Sarah Barnes, Senior Director of Policy and Economic Security

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Sarah Barnes, and I am the Senior Director of Policy and Economic Security at the Colorado Children's Campaign. The Children's Campaign is a nonpartisan policy organization that leverages data and research to unapologetically advocate for kids.

One of our main areas of focus is economic security, which is why I am submitting testimony in support of HB 1032. Thank you to Representative Rutinel for carrying this legislation.

National research shows that you are most likely to face eviction during childhood, and when families experience an eviction, it often leads to periods of housing instability and homelessness.

The annual point-in-time count of homelessness in the Denver metro area in 2024 found that the number of families experiencing homelessness grew significantly, from 2,101 to 3,136 families.

When children experience housing instability or homelessness, they are more likely to have to change schools and miss school days, leading to negative impacts on academic outcomes. This experience also has a negative impact on their safety and overall well-being and development.

Families do not experience housing instability and homelessness as an isolated experience. It happens in the context of a struggle to make ends meet and afford the cost of housing alongside the cost of food, child care, and other basic necessities. This bill will increase coordination across the systems and organizations that support families in our state – schools, health care, and public benefits – helping to identify holistic solutions to prevent homelessness for families with children.

We are excited that this bill will allow for the creation of a statewide strategy and recommended policy solutions to address homelessness in our state, including for families with children. We urge your support of HB 1032. Thank you!



HB25-1032: Improving Infrastructure to Reduce Homelessness

Written Committee Testimony

House Transportation, Housing & Local Government

February 19, 2025

Sarah Barnes, Senior Director of Policy and Economic Security

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Sarah Barnes, and I am the Senior Director of Policy and Economic Security at the Colorado Children's Campaign. The Children's Campaign is a nonpartisan policy organization that leverages data and research to unapologetically advocate for kids.

One of our main areas of focus is economic security, which is why I am submitting testimony in support of HB 1032. Thank you to Representative Rutinel for carrying this legislation.

National research shows that you are most likely to face eviction during childhood, and when families experience an eviction, it often leads to periods of housing instability and homelessness.

The annual point-in-time count of homelessness in the Denver metro area in 2024 found that the number of families experiencing homelessness grew significantly, from 2,101 to 3,136 families.

When children experience housing instability or homelessness, they are more likely to have to change schools and miss school days, leading to negative impacts on academic outcomes. This experience also has a negative impact on their safety and overall well-being and development.

Families do not experience housing instability and homelessness as an isolated experience. It happens in the context of a struggle to make ends meet and afford the cost of housing alongside the cost of food, child care, and other basic necessities. This bill will increase coordination across the systems and organizations that support families in our state – schools, health care, and public benefits – helping to identify holistic solutions to prevent homelessness for families with children.

We are excited that this bill will allow for the creation of a statewide strategy and recommended policy solutions to address homelessness in our state, including for families with children. We urge your support of HB 1032. Thank you!



February 5, 2025

RE: HB25-1032 Improving Infrastructure to Reduce Homelessness

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee:

My name is Jo Feder and I am a Volunteer Lobbyist with the League of Women Voters of Colorado's Legislative Action Committee. I am writing in **Support** of HB25-1032 on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Colorado.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) has been a nonpartisan organization for 105 years, encourages informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Our membership spans the state of Colorado with 20 local leagues operating in several regions around the state.

The LWVCO supports a policy to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for every person, and equal rights and equal opportunity for all.

There is a growing problem of homelessness and HB25-1032 will create the Colorado Interagency council on homelessness within the Governor's office. It is intended to create a statewide strategy for homelessness resolution and prevention. The council will be made up of Directors or designees of state agencies that deal with homelessness and be supported by an advisory council who have direct experience working to prevent homelessness and or with homeless individuals. A special regional district made up of counties and municipalities will be formed to reduce and prevent homelessness.

We urge the committee members vote **YES** on HB25-1032. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Respectfully,
Jo Feder,
Volunteer Lobbyist, Housing Legislative Action Committee
League of Women Voters of Colorado
110 16th Street Mall, Suite 1326
Denver, Colorado 80202