

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

03/20/2025 Upon Adjournment

HB25-1109 Gender Identity Certificate of Death

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Laura MacWaters For themselves	<p>Testimony of Laura Macwaters</p> <p>In Support of HB25-1109</p> <p>To the Chair and members of the committee.</p> <p>My name is Laura Macwaters, and I have had the honor of supporting and advocating for my community in Fort Collins for many years. I am here today as a proud transgender woman, and I urge you to support HB25-1109 to ensure that every person is recognized for who they truly are, even after they pass.</p> <p>When I transitioned, I carried with me four decades of experiences where my identity was made invisible to the world. I worried about how I would be remembered after I died, or if my story would be erased to vanish without any acknowledgment. I've led a support group for my community for the last decade, listening to hundred and hundreds of personal stories. I've seen how easy it is for transgender people—especially seniors—to have their identity questioned, dismissed, or erased. This bill ensures that the respect we fight for in life does not disappear the moment we pass.</p> <p>I have walked alongside transgender friends who never had their families accept them, who were kicked out, made homeless, divorced, cut off from their children and denied all family gatherings, events, and news. I have seen the pain of those who feared they would be permanently misgendered even in death, even by their families. Sadly this is all too common. When a person's gender is stripped from their final records, it is more than a clerical error—it is an act of erasure, a denial of who they are and of their legacy. HB25-1109 prevents that from happening. It ensures that our state honors the truth of who we were, as documented in our legal records or as affirmed by those closest to us.</p> <p>This bill is not about politics or ideology—it is about dignity. It does not take anything away from anyone. It does not change or erase any data already being collected. This bill even helps improve the accuracy of State record keeping and the public health and demographic studies based upon them by finally including a person's gender as well as their sex. Finally, this bill simply allows transgender people</p>

	<p>the same right to be remembered correctly as anyone else, the same right to say "Remember me", "this is who I am", and "I was here",</p> <p>I implore you to vote yes on HB25-1109, because every person deserves to be recognized for who they truly are—not just in life, but afterwards too.</p> <p>I thank you to listening to me,</p> <p>Laura Michelle MacWaters</p>
<p>Teresa Buttler For themselves</p>	<p>I support this bill for 3 reasons.</p> <p>First, because it hurts no one to respect the rights of a human being to have their documents reflect their gender identity.</p> <p>Second, this bill requires no spending of taxpayer dollars. This bill hurts no one. Every person deserves dignity.</p> <p>Third, because I am really sick of Republicans voting against bills that provide dignity to people and, instead, spend their time ruminating on other people's genitalia.</p>
<p>Linnea Burson For themselves</p>	<p>I support this bill. It hurts nobody and I am tired of Republicans being obsessed with people's genitals.</p>
<p>Amy Diamond For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Amy Diamond, and I am a psychiatric nurse practitioner urging passage of HB25-1109.</p> <p>When I was in nursing school, I worked as what back then, 20 yrs ago, was called a hospice "sitter," which means a companion for hospice patients showing signs and symptoms of being within a few days of dying. They may have family who are going home for some rest or who couldn't be there at all, but most of my assignments had no family in contact. My job was to quite literally sit with them and comfort them so they wouldn't have to be alone as they were slipping away.</p>

	<p>I recall one time I was sitting with one such elderly man as he mostly slept, reassuring him that I'm there when he'd wake up confused or afraid occasionally. As I was looking around the assisted living converted hospital room he would die in, it struck me how nothing about it so much as acknowledged the significance of his imminent passing, whereas we come into the world and are celebrated just for that. He had lived a whole life, whatever it was, and here he was unceremoniously slipping away; no balloons, flowers, smiling stuffed bears, cards - nothing to recognize his achievement of, at least, existing for decades. But then death ultimately leaves no tokens or trinkets anyway that could do justice to who we become by time we die, if we're lucky.</p> <p>I believe HB25-1109 works to dignify, as best we can as a society, what death leaves of who we are, and to humbly honor the most compassionate and judicious way to speak of the departed: according to their own chosen terms.</p> <p>Thank you, and please vote yes on this common-sense bill.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Amy Diamond, MA, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC</p>
<p>Amy Diamond For herself</p>	<p>CORRECTED; PLS DISREGARD PREVIOUS SUBMISSION.</p> <p>Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee. My name is Amy Diamond, and I am a psychiatric nurse practitioner urging passage of HB25-1109.</p> <p>When I was in nursing school, I worked as what back then, 20 yrs ago, was called a hospice "sitter," which means a companion for hospice patients showing signs and symptoms of being within a few days of dying. They may have family who are going home for some rest or who couldn't be there at all, but most of my assignments had no family in contact. My job was to quite literally sit with them and comfort them so they wouldn't have to be alone as they were slipping away.</p> <p>I recall one time I was sitting with one such elderly man as he mostly slept, reassuring him that I'm there when he'd wake up confused or afraid occasionally. As I was looking around the assisted living converted hospital room he would die in, it struck me how nothing about it so much as acknowledged the significance of his imminent passing, whereas we come into the world and are celebrated just for that. He had lived a whole life, whatever it was, and here he was unceremoniously slipping away; no balloons, flowers, smiling stuffed bears, cards - nothing to recognize his achievement of, at least, existing for decades. But then death ultimately leaves no</p>

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<p>Jeany Rush Against themselves</p>	<p>TO: House Health & Human Services Committee RE: HB25-1109 Gender Identity Certificate of Death Sponsors: McCormick, Brown, Weissman 2-25-25 FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs, Constituent VOTE: NO</p> <p>RESENDING THIS ONE WITH AN ADDITION: BY THE LAWS OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE ORDERS, THIS BILL VIOLATES LAW OF THE LAND!</p> <p>"January 28, Presidential Executive Order An order to protect children with gender dysphoria while Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation, hospitals across the country will be required to suspend any gender interventions on individuals under the age of 19. ...Second Order is that there are two genders, male and female....."</p> <p>Today, for us to be addressing this sensitive a subject, when so much is changing in the landscape of liberty in America, blows my mind. First and foremost, I totally object to your bill, your finding the need to legislate someones possible Gender, based on the now known non-scientific ideological disparity on this issue is insane. Further, with the new executive orders, I am not even sure this would cut the mustard. But first I object because you, as legislators, working for all of us, should not be interfering into the families, who have often cherished these folks their whole lives. If anyone dies, their families, heirs, or other designated relatives should have these options, not complete strangers who want to literally push their ideologies, rather than legislate. While I realize this is a sensitive issue, it is actually not your wheel house or your right to keep interfering in families issues. There are laws for these situations. Otherwise, the individuals who are involved, which is not the majority of the populace, would have options to make whatever arrangements they choose. It is not your GULAG right to bring this into your bucket list. There are actually sensitive ways a family can handle this honoring before/after if such would be the case. But it is absolutely none of your business. This is still up to the family or</p>

	<p>others related. If absolutely no one exists, then the existing laws would prevail. After all, we are all born a certain way, and that does not change, with the false damaging physical changes that may have transpired. This state has trampled too far into the weeds, and I feel it is even insulting for you to even think you have this right. I may sound harsh, but my heart is breaking! In Outrage! Gammy</p>
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March 19, 2025

Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: HB25-1109 – Gender Identity Certificate of Death

Dear Members of the Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee:

My name is Katharine Ebersberger and I represent the League of Women Voters of Colorado's legislative action committee. The League is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Our membership spans the state of Colorado with 18 local leagues operating in several regions of the state.

I am writing to express our wholehearted support for HB25-1109.

This bill allows our transgender and non-binary residents to be remembered in official state records as their authentic selves. Indeed, it is an expression of our respect for our residents' rights to live-- and die-- authentically.

The League bases its advocacy decisions on our longstanding State and national positions. We are committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people.

This bill fosters a sense of inclusion and belonging for our transgender and non-binary residents, who are facing increasing attacks in other parts of society.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and we urge you to vote yes on this bill.

Sincerely,

Katharine Ebersberger
League of Women Voters of Colorado
110 16th Street Mall
Suite 1326
Denver, CO 80202