



Sen. Williams,

Angela Williams <sen.williams.sd33@gmail.com>

Women's Lobby of CO supports SB18-157 & Colorado Women Veterans

Peg Perl <mgperl@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 26, 2018 at 9:03 AM

To: owen.hill.senate@state.co.us, vicki.marble.senate@state.co.us, LOIS COURT <lois.court.senate@state.co.us>, Senator Sonnenberg <senatorsonnenberg@gmail.com>, stephen.fenberg.senate@state.co.us

Cc: Angela Williams <sen.williams.sd33@gmail.com>, jessie.danielson.house@state.co.us

Dear members of the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee-

As Board Chair of the Women's Lobby of Colorado, I am writing to express our support for SB18-157, because we are not able to provide a representative to testify in person at committee this afternoon. I hope you will consider this written testimony as part of the record.

The Women's Lobby of Colorado is a membership organization that seeks to provide better opportunities for women in our state by ensuring that public policies reflect gender equity and justice since 1993. Our organizational and individual members have voted overwhelmingly in favor of supporting our sisters, mothers, daughters and friends who have served our country in the military. These are some of the strongest women that I know, and they deserve every resource we can offer them when they are back in our communities after military service for all of us.

12 other states already have a state office or officer dedicated to their women veterans, and it is surprising that Colorado is not one of them. Our strong military families live throughout the state, plus we are the home of the Air Force Academy for our nation. 1 out of 5 active duty military are women, and we have such a large percentage of active and retired military in Colorado. They are rural, urban, Republican, Democratic, Unaffiliated, Black, Latina, White, Christian, Jewish, Muslim: the full range of our Colorado neighbors, linked by their service to our Nation.

These women have served us all and we owe them a duty to support, connect, and thank them and their families through the services of the office this bill would create. These women vets have different needs which are not being properly met by the VA, and it is not the way of Colorado to let the federal government fail our citizens when we can step in and help our own.

The Women's Lobby of Colorado urges you to vote yes in support of our women veterans on SB18-157.

Sincerely,
Peg Perl
Board Chair

The Women's Lobby organizational members include:

9to5 Colorado

AAUW Colorado

Blossom Project

Business and Professional Women of Colorado

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Colorado Chapter of Moms Demand Action

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

CCHI

Colorado Fiscal Institute

Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights

Colorado Center on Law and Policy

Colorado Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Colorado Youth Matter

2/26/2018

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Conservation Colorado

NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado

National Council of Jewish Women - Colorado Section

Office of the Clerk and Recorder, City and County of Denver

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

ProgressNow Colorado

Women's Collaborative for Colorado

Women's Foundation of Colorado