



www.douglas.co.us

Office of the County Commissioners

Lora L. Thomas, Commissioner District III

March 6, 2017

RE: HB17-1122, The Birth Certificate Modernization Act

Honorable Members of the Colorado House of Representatives:

I write this letter, asking respectfully that you vote **NO** on HB17-1122, The Birth Certificate Modernization Act.

My background includes 26 years of service with the Colorado State Patrol before my retirement at the rank of Patrol Major, and four years as the elected Douglas County Coroner. My concern with requiring the State Registrar to issue a new birth certificate "with a different gender designation" upon receiving a statement from a medical or mental health care provider that a person's gender designation should be changed accordingly, is that it may be easy to change a piece of paper but it is *impossible* to change science.

During the time I served as the Douglas County Coroner, we investigated the death of a person who was burned beyond recognition in a fire. We obtained DNA (a scientific process) that identified the individual as a male. This was just one step in positively identifying the remains in order to sign the death certificate.

Imagine the brick wall an investigator would hit when trying to identify DNA samples that conflict with an original birth certificate.

There must be some ability for an investigator to track back to an original birth certificate that documents the biological gender of the person that matches DNA. An amended birth certificate would provide the necessary "trail" for an investigator to reconcile the discrepancy between science and current birth certificates as proposed in this bill.

I further question the ability for persons to obtain original birth certificates that change gender and names without a court order. Fugitives go to extreme measures to avoid capture.

In conclusion, many things can be changed but science is not one of them. **Please vote NO on HB1122.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lora L. Thomas'.

Lora L. Thomas

Douglas County Commissioner, District III