



April 2025

To: Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee  
Re: HB1266- Colorado American Indian Recognition Day

Dear Committee Members:

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. More than 700 community leaders are members of AAUW branches around Colorado.

Colorado has made significant progress over the past few years in recognizing, and making long-overdue apologies for, the victimization of women and girls that continues to have a generational impact on our Native American community. It is well past time to honor American Indian cultures, histories, and sovereignty. By highlighting both the resilience and the challenges faced by Native American communities, the bill aims to ensure that their stories and legacies remain an integral part of Colorado's history.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB1266 to establish Colorado American Indian Recognition Day and requests your AYE vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

**Su Ryden**  
**AAUW Colorado Public Policy Co-Director**

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*American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*



April 1, 2025

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

My name is Dr. Susan Williams, I live in Fort Collins, CO, and I am a member of and volunteer lobbyist for the League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) Legislative Action Committee. I am representing the League regarding **HB25-1266 Colorado American Indian Recognition Day**. The Colorado League has over 2200 members in 20 local Leagues spanning the state. LWVCO members urge you to vote in **SUPPORT OF HB25-1266 Colorado American Indian Recognition Day**.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado recognizes and celebrates that the significant history and contributions of Native Indian nations with ancestral and legal ties to Colorado is essential to fostering education, cultural awareness, acknowledgement of their sovereignty, and reconciliation.

Colorado acknowledges some of the darkest moments in the state's history include the genocide, forced removal, and systemic discrimination that American Indian nations have endured. The League of Women Voters of Colorado supports all efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination; to help communities bring about racial integration; to promote equal rights and equal opportunity; and to promote social and economic justice for all.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado (LWVCO) **supports HB 25-1266** as it designates a state holiday to honor and celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and all Native Indian nations with historic ties to Colorado. As written, **HB 25-1266** will serve as an opportunity for education, recognition, remembrance, celebration, and appreciation, ensuring that the stories, legacies, and sovereignty of these nations remain an integral part of Colorado's past, present, and future.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado urges you to vote **YES** on **HB25-1266 Colorado American Indian Recognition Day**.

Sincerely,

*Susan L. Williams*

Susan L. Williams, Ph.D.  
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