



April 2025

To: Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Re: AAUW Support for HB1097—Placement Transition Plans for Children

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 AAUW members in local branches around the state.

AAUW has led the fight for economic empowerment for women, and we have made progress over the years. Yet women continue to face barriers to reach our full potential. Education is key to overcoming these barriers and it becomes even more difficult for young girls in foster care. Not only have their lives have been disrupted, they may be subject to ongoing, frequent, or unexpected moves from one placement to another. The impact on their ability to learn can be devastating.

HB1097 offers hope, by providing a framework for creating consistency in transitioning children from one placement to another and to prevent children from experiencing unnecessary or abrupt placement changes that affect their well-being or sense of security. A training requirement will also insure that those who are directly involved can ensure that the transition is child-centered, trauma-informed, and in compliance with the rights of children and youth in foster care.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB1097 and urges 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.



OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL

April 24, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

The Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel submits this written testimony to more fully explain the agency's estimated costs as listed in the Departmental Difference section of the fiscal note. The assumptions made by LCS are incorrect and contrary to the agency's submitted fiscal note response. Additionally, amendments made in Appropriations would actually increase the costs for the ORPC, not alleviate the fiscal impact.

In order to understand why there is a cost, it is important to understand the mechanics of what this bill is adding. LCS assumed that RPC are already involved in placement transition logistics. While that is true to some extent, as amended in the House, HB 25-1097 now mandates that a placement transition plan be created in most circumstances when a child moves from one placement to another, or when a child moves from a placement back to a parent's home. That plan is created AFTER the decision for a placement change has been made by the court or by the parties, and it MUST be created in a meeting, unless all parties AND the current and future placement provider ALL agree that the meeting is not necessary. So, even if the child's attorney, the child, the parent, and the county ALL agree that the placement change OR return home is in the best interest of the child AND the court has ordered it, the current foster parent can then require that a meeting be held to develop a transition plan, even if many of the details of that placement change or return home have already been developed. And if someone refuses to participate, they lose their right to have input into things like the timing of the transition, so this is truly a mandatory meeting. In our fiscal note response, the ORPC spent a half page detailing the additional requirements that led to the additional workload for contractors. While those requirements have changed with subsequent amendments, they have not decreased, because now the decisions must be made in a mandatory meeting.

Between preparing for the meeting, attending the meeting, and reviewing the notes, between 10 and 20 people, many of them taxpayer funded, will be spending an additional 2-4 hours every time a child transitions placement. People attending such a meeting who are paid by taxpayer dollars include caseworkers, caseworker supervisors, facilitators, kin support workers, county licensing workers, child placement agency workers, county attorneys, GALs or CFYs, RPC, service providers, and CASA supervisors.

As reflected in the Department Difference in the fiscal note, the ORPC estimated that participation in the creation of transition plans in all of the cases where they are required would cost the agency a minimum of \$390,000. Contrary to the information provided in the Departmental Difference, that estimate DOES NOT include litigation costs, which was clear in the response our agency submitted. Specifically, regarding litigation costs, the ORPC wrote:

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Finally, the ORPC assumes that some cases will end in litigation, particularly where the transition plan is not agreed upon, where it is not shared and the parent is not provided a copy, or where the transition plan disrupts, or where a placement change has been ordered or decided upon but the transition plan has not been created by the department and the RPC must ask the court to order the caseworker to complete it to avoid further delay. The interpretation and constitutionality of the statute could be at issue, leading to additional costs. The ORPC has not included any of these possible costs in this analysis but is able to provide an estimate upon request.

The costs will not only be on the ORPC – they will be much higher for the counties, who have to facilitate and organize these meetings and then write the plans. This bill doesn't give money for more caseworkers, who are already overworked and quitting their jobs due to burnout. Without regards to whether transition plans are a good idea, doing a good job with a meeting and a written plan takes time, and paying professionals to attend a meeting and create a written plan costs money. If the General Assembly does not appropriate the money that is needed for this legislation to work, it will only end up harming families and delaying placement transitions that are in the best interests of children.

Best regards,

Melanie Jordan

Policy Director, Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel