

I want to begin by thanking the committee and chair for allowing me to speak today. My name is Kim Johnson, and I felt it important to voice my support of SB25-130. I am here today to share how denial of emergency services is not merely about data but rather is a tangibly detrimental practice. This is a brief overview as to why the inaccessibility of emergency services matters to me.

I did not have what some consider to be a typical childhood, although mine was exceptionally abnormal. For reasons that are not important to my testimony, my siblings and I were denied the ability to engage with the world by our parents. Thus meaning, that my siblings and I did not hold social security numbers or adequate identification, despite being American citizens. While this hinderance impacted a lot in life, the apex of this occurred in 2014 when my sister fell ill. She had been experiencing aches and pains that were progressively worsening, and by Spring, she had lost noticeable weight and was growing sicker. Although raised to not seek care, we made not one, not two, but three attempts from March of 2014 to June of 2014 for her to be seen in emergency care establishments. Two were free-standing clinics, and one was a hospital- each facility denied care due to her being unable to present an identification and insurance card.

Ultimately, in July of 2014, she was admitted under false pretenses to an emergency department while utilizing our mom's identity. I do not say this to boast about having broken the law- I say this because it should not have required a subversion for her to be seen. That she was obviously ill should have been enough, but it wasn't. What we did not know at the time, was that had we called an ambulance, she would have been seen. Knowing that now, I wish we could go back and do things differently. The thing is it should not have mattered. The fact that my sister was severely ill, that should have been enough for care to be initiated and for her to be seen. It should never have been such a tremendous task for someone to seek necessary care.

Unfortunately, we would come to learn that my sister had been battling Stage IV Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She went on to endure years of therapeutic treatments and medical interventions, a stem-cell transplant, refractory disease, a relapse and has now been in hospice care for a year. Throughout her journey, so many noted that had she been diagnosed sooner, her path may have been less complex, and her prognosis could have been different. The harsh reality- is we tried. The system failed her and at just 38, my sister is facing a terminal diagnosis and impending death. Because in Colorado- she was denied emergency medical service intervention for not being able to furnish an identification.

Since my sister's diagnosis, I have elected to take a clinical path and have worked in healthcare for nearly the past decade. As a provider, I strive to be different, but I also work within systems that have rules and regulations that do not support basic humanitarianism. It is heartbreaking that there are likely many more like me, like my sister, with stories of loved ones who sought care and were denied due to bureaucracy and profits being placed over people. I believe that the passage of SB25-130 will assist in fixing this. Moreover, I stoically believe that had SB25-130 been statute in 2014 when my sister first sought care, her outcome would be vastly different. Not only is it likely that I would not be faced with losing a sister, but she would also not be facing death from a disease that when diagnosed early, has an 89% cure rate.

I encourage all of you here today to not only think of mine and my sister's story but think about all the other stories that could be told by those who have experienced a denial of emergency medical services in Colorado due to a myriad of reasons. As you vote, think about how your vote may be the difference between an individual receiving care, or how denial of care may cost another person their life. I truly hope that you will vote in support of SB25-130. Thank you for your time today.

**House Health & Human Services**

**04/28/2025 Upon Adjournment**

**SB25-130 Providing Emergency Medical Services**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
<p>Amy Diamond For themselves</p>	<p>Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and Committee members,</p> <p>My name is Amy Diamond, and I am testifying today in strong support of SB25-130. I'd like to start by thanking the sponsors for bringing this bill.</p> <p>We need this bill because of the program underway laying claim to women's bodies as reproductive and domestic beasts of burden. It is unacceptable for pregnant patients to be turned away from emergency departments, unnecessarily put at risk for life-threatening outcomes, because fetal potential in our post-Roe landscape is deemed more worthwhile than the actual personhood of the patient it forms inside.</p> <p>Women's bodies aren't caves of ore or metal, existing to be mined to dust. Women aren't brood-mares, heifers, mules, incubators, or community gardens, either.</p> <p>While these metaphors are dramatic, they are gentle compared to the slanderous accusations of opponents, through language meant to trigger a strong primitive reaction rather than encourage reflection. Meanwhile, there are still no recreational, sadistic, compulsive, or trendy abortions to speak of. It is almost always a rare, deeply personal, and painful experience and choice.</p> <p>Despite opponents' talk about saving children and protecting women, when have women asked for protection from their own autonomy, agency, and potential? When have women asked for defense of their "spaces" to be imposed on them? When have the unborn contacted their elected representatives to fix something they</p>

	<p>don't like about their intrauterine experience? How many children forced into existence by red states are then lovingly cared for and supported by them?</p> <p>I've heard some impassioned debates in the well though, touting inalienable liberties, rights to self-expression, self-defense, and to thrive economically with minimal regulation, and of course, the primacy of local control. A common thread throughout those values is self-sovereignty, which bodily autonomy as discussed here exemplifies, as well as local control in the right to manage the contours and contents of one's own body.</p> <p>Please vote yes on SB25-130. Coloradan women have already made it clear that we are not interested in serving as state breeding stock or Lebensborn nannies. It's time to recenter our healthcare needs around our own personhood.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Thank you, Amy Diamond, APRN, PMHNP-BC Broomfield, 80020</p> <p>"Sexism is the foundation on which all tyranny is built. Every social form of hierarchy and abuse is modeled on male-over-female domination." ~Andrea Dworkin</p>
<p>Maryori Guzman For Young Invincibles</p>	<p>To: Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee From: Maryori Guzman - Young Invincibles Re: SB25-130 - Providing Emergency Medical Services</p> <p>Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,</p>

	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Maryori Guzman, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Young Invincibles as one of their Youth Advisory Board members.</p> <p>I live in the rural southeast part of the state, and I am a mother of five. There would have been seven had I not been turned away when I sought help at the emergency room twice.</p> <p>Twelve years ago, I walked into the emergency room in agonizing pain. I explained to the staff that I had been bleeding for hours. When I arrived, I was checked and sat in a chair down a hallway. Not a single doctor checked on me for about three hours. I was bleeding so heavily and told the doctor my baby girl had stopped moving, to which he replied, "switch out the pad every hour," and sent me home. I was turned away because my Medicaid only provided coverage when the baby was born. As a result, that weekend, I gave birth to a baby girl who died in my arms. She was 7 months old and her name was Samantha.</p> <p>A similar experience happened again in 2019. That time, I was two months along and miscarried after once again being denied the care I begged for in an emergency room.</p> <p>These painful experiences have pushed me to learn, reflect, and recognize the systemic barriers that continue to harm communities like mine. It is through these moments of clarity that I have gained the perspective to truly see the harm caused by these systemic issues, and I now use my voice to speak out against them. Access to health care is the difference between life and death for many. We are in times of uncertainty under the current federal climate, and this legislation will ensure that my story doesn't repeat - especially for those who look like me seeking help in rural communities that go unnoticed.</p> <p>As a mother, student, and advocate in Colorado who has been directly impacted by gross discrimination, I urge you to please vote yes on SB25-130. Thank you.</p>
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House Health and Human Services Committee  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB25-130

April 28, 2025

Dear Committee Members:

I am unable to present in person but wanted to testify before this committee in **support** of SB25-130 to protect access to emergency care for people in the State Colorado. I am a faculty member in the Department of Political Science at the University of Colorado Denver. I am writing on my own behalf as a teacher and scholar on issues pertaining to this bill and do not speak for my Department or University.

I teach in the areas of Law and Diversity and Constitutional Law and have published many articles on the legal status of women and of GLBT people in the history of the United States. In January of this year I published my book, *Anti-Dobbs: An Interdisciplinary Polemic*. Like many others in the state, I have grown alarmed by the degraded legal and political landscapes that resulted from the Supreme Court's tragic 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* decision and the more recent political chaos that has resulted from the current Presidential Administration. As a result of both, the health and wellbeing of people living in the United States is threatened in ways not seen for decades. Little today resembles the law and legal norms that existed when I was in law school (I graduated in 2001) and of which I have been writing and teaching about ever since. My *Anti-Dobbs* book represents my expression of how sad and distraught I am at the current state of our country, and especially for the setbacks for women's reproductive freedoms, health care, and bodily autonomy.

Pregnant women often need emergency abortion care, which is becoming increasingly difficult in a post-*Dobbs* world. Even women who do not end up needing care, need to know that such care is available to them, and that their community *stands by them and for them*. Colorado law is currently silent on the issue, and without SB130, we remain completely reliant on the Trump Administration to protect us. Unfortunately, that Administration has already stopped defending The Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA), and conservative state attorneys general are continuing to challenge these protections in court. I understand that Senate Bill 130 has been amended to align directly with federal EMTALA, ensuring patients experiencing emergency complications cannot be denied care. This bill does not go beyond what federal law already requires, it simply **ensures Colorado law reflects these protections**.

As someone who understands deeply the nature of our federalist structure of government, I get up every morning thankful that I am a citizen of the State of Colorado, which is one of the few states in our nation to be proud of, and I want to encourage this legislative body to keep up that leadership. On so many measures, the State of Colorado serves as a national example of what we can be as a people—generous, tolerant, and welcoming of diversity. Sadly, while many states are letting down their citizens and others who live among them, the Federal Government, under the Trump Administration, has reneged on many of its statutory commitments, constitutional

requirements, and national values to protect all people of this nation no matter where they live. With the current Administration we are seeing flagrant and malice-filled disregard for its responsibility to make sure that all people receive basic human rights under the Rule of Law and a politicizing of the health care system. In the case before this committee, I mean the **right to emergency medical care on issues of reproductive health**. Sadly, we cannot rely on the federal system for our protection, and we must pass legislation, like this proposed one, that allows for no ambiguity in what we (living here in the State of Colorado, no matter of legal status or sex, or sexuality, or financial ability) can expect from the health care system. **Dependability and predictability for access is crucial for our human rights and physical well-being**. Our medicine, and our bodily integrity should not be dependent upon the political winds or the world views of close minded and mean-spirited people who, throughout our history, have legislated (punitively and vindictively) against the interests of women. For women of color, the situation has only been worse. I urge this legislature to pass SB25-130 for the people of Colorado and to serve as a positive example to counter all the states that are seeking to turn back the clock on the social and legal progress we have had since the 1970s.

Thank you for your consideration.



Omar Swartz, JD/PHD  
6217 South Boston Court  
Englewood, CO 80111  
720-354-0223  
Omar.Swartz@ucdenver.edu

To: Members of the Health & Human Services  
From: Ashley Settergren | Young Invincibles  
Re: SB25-130: Providing Emergency Medical Services

Mr. Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you today. My name is Ashley, and I am here representing myself and the organization Young Invincibles. I live in Denver and I am a recent college graduate.

I'm here because access to emergency medical care is a fundamental right, and **I urge a 'YES' vote on SB25-130**. As a young person living in Colorado, I believe everyone should be able to access emergency care - no matter their background or circumstances.

Currently, we are witnessing efforts at both the federal level and in certain states to roll back protections for reproductive rights, putting basic emergency care at risk. Federal law, through the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), is supposed to guarantee emergency care for anyone who needs it. But some states are challenging those protections, especially for pregnant people who need abortion or miscarriage care.

We cannot allow Colorado to become a place where someone in a medical crisis is denied care because of what kind of care they need, or their ability to pay. When care is delayed or denied, it leads to tragic and preventable outcomes. Public reports show that pregnant people in states like Texas, Georgia, and Indiana have lost their lives after being refused care.

**SB25-130** will create essential state protections to require that emergency care is provided to all patients in Colorado. This bill makes it clear: in Colorado, we value the lives and health of every person.

As a young Coloradan who is directly impacted by access to emergency care, **I urge you to please vote YES on SB25-130**. Protect our rights, our health, and our lives - because nobody should ever be denied the care they need in an emergency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Settergren  
Young Advocate | Young Invincibles