



April 2024

To: Senate State, Civic, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee
Re: AAUW Supports HB1236—Women Veterans Appreciation 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 AAUW members in local branches around the state.

For the past 50 years, women have become a growing segment of America's armed forces. Today, nearly one in five service members are women. Colorado is home to over 40,000 women Veterans, and the number grows each year.

AAUW supports the progress the armed forces have made to address the barriers and implicit biases that women face. Yet, once these women leave the military, they often face new challenges in civilian life. Establishing Women Veterans Appreciation Day will not only recognize the contributions women have made to our nation's security, but also bring needed attention to the issues keeping women Veterans from reaching their full potential.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado urges an AYE vote on HB1236 in committee and as the bill moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Su Ryden
AAUW of 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.