



State of Colorado

Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel

Lindy Frolich, Director
www.coloradoadc.org

1300 Broadway, #330
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (720) 994-2845

March 20, 2024

Dear Chair Gonzales and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

The Office of Alternate Defense Counsel (OADC), Office of the Child's Representative (OCR), and Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel (ORPC) write jointly to express our strong support for HB 24-1102: Concerning Requirements for Individuals Appointed to Serve in Certain Independent Agencies of the Judicial Department.

Presently, our enabling statutes, 21-2-102 (OADC), 13-91-104 (OCR), and 13-92-103 (ORPC), require the leader of each of those agencies to be licensed to practice law in Colorado for five (5) years prior to their appointment as leader. With the structures of our agencies, and the duties of the leaders, there is no need for this requirement, and it only serves to narrow the pool of candidates. It is not vital for a leader to practice or know Colorado law from the first day because of the nature of their duties and the extraordinary supporting staff at each agency. Without this present Colorado license requirement, Colorado could recruit nationally to fill any vacancies that will eventually occur, not limited by the boundaries of Colorado, but open to anyone licensed to practice in any state with the requisite experience and expertise that satisfies the Commissions tasked with doing the hiring for any openings at the top of our agencies.

House Bill 24-1102 represents a straightforward and streamlined approach to ensure each agency can recruit the most qualified candidates to lead and grow the important work of OADC, OCR, and ORPC. Our agencies are grateful to the Judiciary Committee for the support provided for our continued success. We urge your support and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Best regards,

Lindy Frolich
Executive Director
OADC

Chris Henderson
Executive Director
OCR

Melissa Thompson
Executive Director
ORPC