

House Judiciary

04/28/2025 Upon Adjournment

SB25-276 Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Miriam Ordonez Rodriguez</p> <p>For</p> <p>themselves</p>	<p>Good afternoon/evening Chair and members of the committee,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Miriam Guadalupe Ordoñez Rodriguez. I'm a formerly undocumented community member and a volunteer with the Colorado Rapid Response Network. I'm here on behalf of those who cannot be here, in strong support of SB25-276.</p> <p>As a child, I lived in constant fear of being discovered. I was undocumented, and I believed that any interaction—whether with a teacher, counselor, or police officer—could expose my status and lead to deportation. That fear kept me silent when I needed help the most. I was experiencing abuse, but I didn't feel safe turning to anyone—not even doctors or teachers—because the fear of deportation was sewn into my skin.</p> <p>When my mom rushed me to a clinic, she knew something was wrong. But even in that moment, she was afraid of what might happen if our immigration status was revealed. Our information could be shared with ICE and my family would be torn apart. No one should have to choose between safety and staying with their family.</p> <p>Had SB276 existed then, I might have felt safe enough to speak out and get the help I needed. This bill would protect families like mine by ensuring that our personal information isn't shared with immigration authorities when we seek help from hospitals, schools, or other public services.</p> <p>Contrary to the belief that this bill shields criminals, we need to recognize that it protects survivors. It allows people to come forward, trust their doctors and teachers, and access critical services without fear. It strengthens our communities by creating policies that guide how institutions respond to immigration enforcement—not to protect wrongdoing, but to protect people from being harmed in silence.</p> <p>Today, as a volunteer, I get calls from people who are too afraid to go to the doctor, or from teachers trying to protect their students but unsure how. Families message me looking for loved ones detained by ICE, and too often, all I can offer is a link to resources—because systems aren't in place to help.</p>

	<p>SB276 would change that. It's about safety, planning, and building trust. It ensures that schools, hospitals, and other public institutions remain places of support, not fear.</p> <p>We need this bill—for those who've lived through this fear, and for the countless others still living in silence.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Beth DeHaven For themselves</p>	<p>I am testifying in support of SB25-276.</p> <p>I am a person of faith who believes that welcoming the stranger among us is paramount. I am also a resident of Fort Collins who has worked for several years to sponsor and resettle Afghan refugee families and to walk with other immigrants as they strive to fulfill what is legally required of them and also find ways to support their families and become integrated into the life of our community. I have seen first hand the challenges that they face daily. Now we are in a time in our country where their everyday challenges are nothing compared to the fear that their families will be torn apart by unjust and many times unlawful federal policies.</p> <p>Our state must be better than that. Colorado families belong together. No one should be afraid to take their kids to school or daycare, to visit the library, or go to the hospital! This isn't who we are nor who we want to be! Colorado must continue to lead and stand up for human dignity.</p> <p>Please vote yes on SB25-276.</p>
<p>Marjorie Kramer For themselves</p>	<p>Hello - I am a concerned neighbor and friend of immigrants living in Fort Collins. In order to express my support of SB25-276, I would like to quote from a message put out by ISAAC here in Northern Colorado about the importance of this bill: "Colorado has made important strides to keep our families together - regardless of immigration status - and to build a welcoming state where people with the courage and tenacity to move here can thrive. But increasingly aggressive tactics by ICE, which target newcomers as well as longtime community members, remind us that federal attacks on our communities are ramping up and the culture of support and care we have worked so hard to create in Colorado is in jeopardy.</p> <p>"No one should be afraid to take their kids to school or daycare, to visit the library or go to the hospital! This isn't who we are nor who we want to be.</p> <p>"SB25-276 strengthens Colorado's existing laws by closing data privacy loopholes; fortifying constitutional protections for immigrants at...schools, daycares, libraries, and hospitals; prohibiting local law enforcement from participating in ICE detainer requests without a judicial warrant.</p> <p>"This legislation is a critical step in reaffirming our state's commitment to upholding the civil liberties of our residents, and fostering a more just and safe community for all our community members."</p>

	<p>Please ensure Colorado residents will be protected under due process of law by passing this bill. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.</p>
<p>Hannah Wurster For themselves</p>	<p>I am a parent, active churchgoer, and advocate for children's mental health. I have worked in both direct mental health and in administration. The current immigration policies and practices enacted by the Trump administration has had a palpable impact on our communities, and particularly our most vulnerable - children and their parents. Even if children do not know the specific laws, news headlines, or names of leaders, they intimately sense the stress of their parents, teachers, and neighbors. This kind of stress is chronic and has a huge impact on health and functioning. Therefore, as an advocate for children, I implore you to pass this bill and create a stronger safety net for our community. We have seen in recent weeks that the Trump administration is not only targeting undocumented immigrants, and in fact have gone as far as to suggest detaining American citizens. While I believe that we should care about this issue no matter who it affects, this brazen attack on civil rights shows the importance of taking action promptly to avoid further abuses. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.</p>



April 25, 2025

To: Chair Mabrey, Vice Chair Carter, and members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Victoria Francis, Deputy Director, State and Local Initiatives, American Immigration Council

Re: SB25-276: Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status

Dear Chair Mabrey, Vice Chair Carter, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Victoria Francis, and I am the Deputy Director of State and Local Initiatives at the American Immigration Council (the Council) and a Colorado resident. The Council works to create a more welcoming America—one that provides a fair immigration process for New Americans and adopts policies that consider the vital contributions they make to the U.S. economy.

I am submitting this letter in strong support of SB25-276: Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status, which concerns measures to prevent the violation of the civil rights of persons in Colorado based on immigration status. By bolstering protections over personally identifying information, protecting immigrants' access to public institutions, such as schools and hospitals, and streamlining access to in-state tuition and identification documents, Colorado is safeguarding the existing rights of its immigrant residents and ensuring that all residents can realize their full potential.

Through past legislation, Colorado has already laid the groundwork for its immigrant residents to succeed. Dozens of immigrant-related bills or bills referencing immigrant communities have been introduced in Colorado in the last decade, including bills that protect residents' data, restrict federal immigration authorities' involvement in local law enforcement, and protect Coloradans in sensitive locations like schools, hospitals, and courts. By setting these boundaries, Colorado is creating an environment that fosters trust between government entities, local law enforcement, and all Coloradans, allowing local law enforcement to prioritize community safety for all. While past bills have undoubtedly helped guard the civil rights of Colorado's immigrants and aided their integration and success in the state, further bolstering the protections of immigrants in the state is essential to ensure that these previous investments are shielded and fully realized.

To help illustrate why this issue is important and why Colorado must continue to protect the civil rights of all residents in the state, including immigrants, my organization conducted quantitative research using data from the 2023 American Community Survey to highlight the contributions immigrants make in Colorado. Our research¹ shows that **Colorado is home to a sizable and strong community of over 563,000 immigrants, making up about 9.6 percent—or nearly one in ten residents—of the state's population.**

Additionally, our research reveals the striking impact immigrants have on Colorado's economy and workforce,² further illustrating the need to ensure the rights of all residents are protected:

- Colorado's immigrant community is critical to the state's future workforce: **82.2 percent of immigrants in Colorado are of working age** (16-64 years of age) compared to 64.2 percent of their U.S.-born counterparts.
- **Colorado's immigrant residents paid over \$7.7 billion in taxes in 2023 — including \$2.5 billion in state and local taxes** — and held \$21.3 billion in spending power that can be reinjected back into the state's economy.
- **Over one in ten of the state's entrepreneurs are immigrants.** As business owners, immigrants are an integral part of Colorado's diverse and thriving business community. They help create jobs and employ numerous Colorado residents.
- **Immigrants comprised over one in ten workers in the state's labor force in 2023.** They were crucial to several important industries and occupations, including healthcare. Immigrants made up 18.0 percent, or nearly one-fifth of the state's health aides, and 12.2 percent of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) workers.
- In 2023, undocumented immigrants contributed \$571.4 million in taxes to state and local governments and made up 12.6 percent of workers in the construction industry.

In addition to their significant economic contributions to the state, immigrants are a deeply rooted part of Colorado's history, culture, and community. Many have built lives in our state with strong ties to U.S.-born Coloradans. In fact, 2.3 percent of U.S. citizens in Colorado live with at least one undocumented family member—including 6.3 percent of U.S. citizen children. Of those children, 5.1 percent live with at least one undocumented parent.

The data paints a clear picture: immigrants are an important part of Colorado's past, present and future. As such, it is important that their rights and safety are protected and that, like all Coloradans, they can continue building their lives and access vital services without undue fear.

Thank you for your consideration,

Victoria Francis
Deputy Director, State and Local Initiatives
American Immigration Council



INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE
OF COLORADO
ACHIEVING DEMOCRACY TOGETHER

April 28, 2025

RE: SB25-276 Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status

Chairperson Mabrey and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate our support for SB25-276. The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado promotes justice, religious liberty, and interfaith understanding through building relationships in order to educate, advocate, and catalyze social change. We are an interfaith public policy and advocacy organization with over 400 congregations in our statewide network, representing over two dozen faith traditions.

Interfaith strongly supports the effort embodied in this bill to protect our civil rights and those of our neighbors. SB25-276 supports the rule of law and contributes to an environment where all people, regardless of immigration status, are better protected.

Communities of faith across Colorado are carrying out important work providing services, support, and spiritual comfort to community members. When community members do not feel that their rights are respected and protected, it is disruptive to that work and interferes with their ability to carry out their faith commitments.

All people within Colorado are entitled to the protections afforded by our state and federal constitutions, and the dignity and safety they feel within our state should not be dependent on their immigration status. We remain determined to work for a today and a future where our communities are supported and cared for, and their rights protected.

Therefore, Interfaith supports a "Yes" vote on SB25-276.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shara Smith, CEO
Interfaith Alliance of Colorado

April 28, 2025

House Judiciary Committee

I urge a no vote on Senate Bill-276, which doubles down on Colorado's unwise sanctuary state laws that have undermined public safety and encouraged a culture of lawlessness with regards to federal immigration laws.

Yesterday, the federal Rocky Mountain Drug Enforcement Administration or DEA seized more than 100 illegal immigrants at an underground nightclub in Colorado Springs. The DEA along with other federal officials and local law enforcement found evidence of criminal activity including illegal drugs, prostitution, and firearms violations. This is just the latest in a series of arrests of illegal immigrants involved in criminal activity in Colorado.

Derek Maltz of the DEA confirmed earlier this year that ["Colorado is "ground zero" for violent illegal immigrant criminals in the U.S.](#) and that the state is the "command and control" center of the illegal immigrant gang, TDA. In his

statement, Mr. Malz said he believes criminals have taken advantage of vulnerabilities and weaknesses in Colorado.

It is also very concerning that DEA had identified TDA criminal gang members, along with members of MS-13 and Hell's Angels at the underground club. Is this an indication of growing collaboration between criminal gangs congregating in Colorado?

So, what is Colorado's response so far to this growing public safety danger? Unfortunately, it is a course of action that is both illogical and irresponsible. Astonishingly, it is to make it even more difficult if not impossible for local law enforcement to let ICE know when violent illegal immigrant criminals are about to be released into the community. That sums up the core of this ill-advised Senate Bill 276.

The supporters of this bill and current sanctuary state laws are making a clear choice regarding illegal immigrants who commit crimes in Colorado—they are choosing to release the criminals back into the community to further victimize Coloradans versus notifying ICE to remove these criminals from our state and country.

It is the wrong choice. SB 276 is the wrong path. In Colorado, let's start putting public safety first by voting down SB 276, and repealing sanctuary state laws in Colorado. Vote No on Senate Bill 276.

Terri Carver

**COLORADO PTA's TESTIMONY ON SB25-276,
PROTECT CIVIL RIGHTS IMMIGRATION STATUS**

Thank you, Mister Chair and Members of the Committee, for this opportunity to advocate for our children and youth. My name is Dawn Fritz, and I am Colorado PTA's Director of Legislative Engagement. I'm proud to represent our nation's oldest and largest child advocacy association.

Colorado PTA strongly supports Senate Bill 276.

PTA recognizes the importance of immigrants in the history of the United States and the resulting blend of cultures enriches our nation. We also believe that all children, regardless of their immigration status, have the right to access quality public education, adequate food and shelter, health care, and other needed social services.

PTA supports policies that create a safe and supportive school environments for all families and students, including students in immigrant and mixed status families, and protecting and preserving public school attendance, student learning and well-being are paramount to our country's future and success.

We support this bill because immigration enforcement should not be allowed in "Protected areas" where children and students are most likely to be affected — including but not limited to schools, playgrounds, recreation centers, childcare centers, before or after school programs, foster care facilities, group homes, bus stops, children's museums, and health care locations. Further, we support limitations on data collection and sharing that constructively denies a student access to education, health care, or other needed social services

Finally, PTA supports laws and policies that keep families together. The separation of a child from their family creates toxic stress and trauma that can have significant and lifelong harm, and the separation of families for purposes of immigration enforcement, is never in the best interest or well-being of children. By expanding protected areas and expanding limits on data gathering and sharing SB25-276 protects children from separation from their parents or family members.

Our association is committed to promoting the safety and well-being of all children, regardless of their immigration status. Thank you to the sponsors for bring this important bill and thank you to the House Judiciary Committee for your consideration of PTA's support for Senate Bill 276.

**Colorado. Municipal League
Written Testimony on SB25-276 – Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status**

Representative Javier Mabrey
Chair, Judiciary Committee
Colorado House of Representatives

Chair Mabrey and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Colorado Municipal League (CML), and its 271 cities and towns across the state of Colorado, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate Bill 25-276 - Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status.

CML appreciates the work of the bill's proponents and their willingness to engage with us throughout the process. We appreciate changes that have been made to the bill which address many of our initial concerns. This includes changes to preserve the ability of local governments to cooperate with federal agencies, conduct criminal investigations, comply with court orders, and reduce administrative burdens on public employees.

However, CML has an outstanding concern regarding the civil penalty outlined in Section 24-74-107, (found on page 13, lines 18-22 of the current bill). This section imposes personal liability of up to \$50,000 on a public employee for intentional violations of the bill's provisions. While the League recognizes the importance of ensuring compliance, we are concerned that this substantial penalty could expose our municipal employees to significant personal risk. Among other things, this may have a detrimental effect on municipal recruitment and retention efforts.

CML respectfully requests that the Committee consider amending Section 24-74-107 to either eliminate the monetary fine in favor of an alternative or administrative disciplinary process or substantially reduce the potential civil penalty amount. We believe this change would better balance accountability with fairness for public employees tasked with carrying out their duties under evolving and sometimes ambiguous legal frameworks.

Thank you again for your consideration of our comments and for your work on this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Schupbach
Legislative & Policy Advocate
Colorado Municipal League