



April 2024

To: House Health and Human Services Committee  
Re: HB24-1456— Increase Syphilis Testing During Pregnancy

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 members of AAUW branches throughout Colorado.

AAUW has led the fight for equity for women, and we have made progress over the years. Yet women continue to face barriers to reach their full potential. A critical area where attention is needed is women's healthcare, particularly for low-income women with limited access.

Recent news stories have highlighted the significant increase in syphilis in newborn babies. Congenital syphilis can cause miscarriage or stillbirth, and if the newborn survives they may have serious health problems. Although we already require a syphilis test early in pregnancy, more testing throughout pregnancy is necessary. HB 1456 requires testing early in the third trimester of pregnancy and at delivery, unless the patient refuses. Making early detection and treatment available will not only help pregnant women and their families, but will also help the community at large by preventing the spread of this disease.

AAUW of Colorado requests your YES vote on House Bill 1456 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.*