



April 2024

To: Senate Health & Human Services Committee  
Re: HB24-1176—Behavioral Health Grant For Capital Project

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 around Colorado.

Recent reports have shown that girls and young women are experiencing record levels of behavioral health issues due to the effects of the COVID pandemic, social media pressure and other causes. These issues are impacting women of all ages, in all stages of life. The fact that the Legislature established a new Behavioral Health Agency speaks to the extreme need for services and facilities. We believe the behavioral health-care continuum gap grant program should be expanded to include community investment grants for qualified capital construction projects.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB 1176 and requests your AYE vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming a law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular border.

**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.*