



March 2024

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: HB24-1072—Protection of Victims of Sexual Offenses

Dear Senate Judiciary 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.

AAUW has led the fight on women's health and safety issues, and we have made progress over the years. Yet there is still work to do. House Bill 1072 expands the criminal rape shield law and further reduces the perpetrators' ability to "blame the victim." AAUW of Colorado applauds the brave women who have come forward to tell their stories and bring current inequities into the public conversation. We believe House Bill 1072 will bring us closer to providing the justice that victims of sexual offenses deserve.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports House Bill 1072 and requests your AYE vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming 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 Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

16699 E. Kentucky Ave.

Aurora, CO 80017

303.898.5797

suryden25@gmail.com

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.