



March 2024

To: House State, Civic, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee  
Re: AAUW Supports HB1236—Women Veterans Appreciation Day

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 AAUW members in local branches around the state.

For the past 50 years, women have become a growing segment of America's armed forces. Today, nearly one in five service members are women. Colorado is home to over 40,000 women Veterans, and the number grows each year.

AAUW supports the progress the armed forces have made to address the barriers and implicit biases that women face. Yet, once these women leave the military, they often face new challenges in civilian life. Establishing Women Veterans Appreciation Day will not only recognize the contributions women have made to our nation's security, but also bring needed attention to the issues keeping women Veterans from reaching their full potential.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado urges a YES vote on HB1236 in committee and as the bill moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

**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.*



## United Veterans Coalition of Colorado

5400 E Yale Ave  
Denver, CO 80222  
[www.uvcoc.org](http://www.uvcoc.org)

March 6, 2024

Dear State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee Members

We are writing to inform you that the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado (UVC) has a support position on HB24-1236 Women Veterans Appreciation Day and urges all committee members to vote yes when the bill comes before you this coming week.

This bill, if passed and signed by the Governor, creates an annual day for Coloradans to recognize all women who stood up, raised their right hand and took an oath to defend the US Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. As you may know, the UVC is an organization of Colorado veteran-member organizations such as the American Legion, the VFW, the Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) and the Military Officer Association (MOAA) among others. We are proud to let you know that a number of these organizations had – or currently have – a woman veteran in their commander/president leading their organizations. We agree. It's time to shine a spotlight on the contributions and sacrifices of Colorado's women veterans.

Thank you for considering UVC's support of SB24-1236 and moving the action forward to the House Committee of the Whole.

Sincerely yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelly Kalkowski". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michelle "Shelly" Kalkowski, Lt Col, USAF (ret)  
Chair, UVC State Legislative Committee  
(970) 430-0632  
[uvc.state.legislative.org](http://uvc.state.legislative.org)

**The UVC, a nonpartisan coalition of veteran service organizations, advocates with one united voice on behalf of Colorado's veterans, currently serving military and their families. Member organizations include the Colorado Departments/Councils of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Enlisted Association, Military Officer Association, Disabled American Veterans, Marine League, Gold Star Wives and several additional organizations.**