



April 2024

To: House State, Civic, Military & Veterans Committee

Re: SB24-053--Racial Equity Study

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.

The study of the effects of slavery and subsequent systemic racism on Black Coloradans is long overdue if we are to seriously address the harm that Colorado state policies continue to inflict on our Black community. AAUW's focus is on equity for women and girls, and we hope this study will address their issues. Most important, SB 053 will identify measures to address those effects and lead to a more equitable society for everyone.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports Senate Bill 53 and requests your YES 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 fluid and cursive.

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.



April 1, 2024

Dear Members of the House State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee,

We are writing today on behalf of Immunize Colorado and the Colorado Vaccine Equity Taskforce to express our support for SB24-053, Racial Equity Study. We encourage you to also support this important measure that will ensure greater racial equity, encourage continued focus on bridging the gaps with on going health inequities and increase access to healthcare.

At Immunize Colorado, we work to **protect Colorado families, schools, and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases**. Immunize Colorado works with health care providers, public health departments, businesses, policy makers, and community organizations to fulfill our mission. By focusing on six programming areas – coalition building, community outreach, provider education, data translation, free and low-cost immunization partnerships, and public policy – the coalition leverages the strengths and resources of our community partners to maximize the effectiveness of our efforts. At Immunize Colorado, we believe everyone – regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, income, or other factor – deserves to have reliable information about and access to life-saving vaccines.

The Colorado Vaccine Equity Taskforce exists to ensure that all groups – regardless of race, ethnicity, ability and other factors – have all the facts to make informed decisions about the safety of vaccines for their families.

We continue to focus on addressing the alarmingly low vaccine rates for BIPOC children which leave them exposed to communicable diseases. Systemic racism has driven a serious public health crisis in Colorado and beyond, evidenced through COVID-19's disproportionate impact on communities of color (with Black, Hispanic and Native American communities experiencing higher rates of disease and death).

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We believe that this piece of legislation will work to provide greater transparency to issues of historical racism, and to shed light on ways that we can work to promote greater health equity and access to the most underserved Coloradans.

For these reasons, we encourage your support of SB24-053.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lontine, Executive Director

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

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SB24-053 Racial Equity Study

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

| Name, Position, Representing | Typed Text of Testimony |
|---|---|
| Clint Crowther Against themselves | Would you tax the very pen or ink that wrote this bill to as an infringement upon our 1st amendment? Simple answer is no you would not. I urge you to oppose this bill as it is most definitely not constitutional. |