



SHARA SMITH
Chief Executive Officer

**INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE**
OF COLORADO
ACHIEVING DEMOCRACY TOGETHER

February 3, 2026

RE: Support for HB26-1017

Chairperson Mabrey and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate our support for HB26-1017. The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado promotes justice, religious liberty, and interfaith understanding through building relationships in order to educate, advocate, and catalyze social change. We have over 400 congregations in our statewide network, representing over two-dozen faith traditions.

Interfaith champions policies that address needed reforms in our legal system. This support is rooted in the common beliefs that our legal system should be rooted in justice and fairness, that people who have paid their debt to society and demonstrated change should have meaningful opportunities to rebuild their lives, and the transformative power of forgiveness to prompt positive change in ourselves and others. HB26-1017 aligns with that policy goal by better conforming restitution to its purpose and putting human restoration before private profit.

The purpose of restitution is to alleviate financial hardship for victims and make them whole. It is an important mechanism for restoring parties who are directly impacted and have suffered direct harm. When restitution is awarded to companies that are not directly harmed, it distorts that purpose and compounds financial barriers to individuals seeking to put past involvement with the legal system behind them. HB26-1017 supports appropriate pathways for our neighbors to truly “pay their debt to society” and return to our communities with a realistic hope for a stable future beyond past history. The restoration of the individual victim and the rehabilitation of the individual convicted are more important than the commercial interests of insurers.

We respectfully ask that you support HB26-1017 and vote Yes to advance it from the committee with your favorable recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration,
Shara Smith, CEO
Interfaith Alliance of Colorado