



February 2026

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

Re: AAUW Support for HB1064— Youthful Offender System Updates

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.

AAUW has led the fight for economic empowerment for women, and we have made progress over the years. Yet girls and women continue to face barriers to reach our full potential. Mental health is key to overcoming these barriers and it becomes even more difficult for young girls in in the youthful offender system. Not only have their lives have been disrupted, they may be impacted by ongoing behavioral health challenges. The impact on their ability to learn can be devastating.

HB1064 offers hope, by emphasizing lasting behavioral changes, trauma-informed care, and addressing criminogenic risk factors, which are risks that contribute to criminal behavior. It ensures equitable treatment and reasonable accommodations for participants with disabilities, expands reporting requirements to include YOS completion rates, and mandates evidence-informed rehabilitative treatment, life skills programming, and individual or family therapy, including substance use disorder treatment.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB1064 and urges your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Su Ryden
AAUW Colorado Advocacy-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.