

**House Transportation, Housing & Local Government**

**03/25/2026 01:30 PM**

**HB26-1330 Alcohol Beverages Entertainment Districts**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
<p>Breeah Kinsella</p> <p>Against</p> <p>Colorado Providers Association</p>	<p>Good afternoon Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Breeah Kinsella, I am the CEO of the Colorado Providers Association. We represent behavioral health organizations in every county of the state, including treatment providers, recovery organizations, and prevention providers.</p> <p>Our members provide full continuum service, not only responding to alcohol use disorder, but working upstream to prevent it. I am here today in opposition to House Bill 26-1330.</p> <p>I want to ground this in scale. A fiscal analysis from this session projected that addressing current alcohol-related impacts in Colorado requires over \$35 million annually. That reflects the level of strain alcohol is already placing on systems this committee oversees, including impaired driving, crashes, and emergency response.</p> <p>This bill increases risk.</p> <p>By expanding local control over hours and operations in entertainment districts, it increases availability and duration of alcohol access. From a prevention standpoint, those are two of the strongest predictors of harm. Late-night hours, particularly after 2:00 a.m., are when we see the highest rates of alcohol-related incidents.</p>

	<p>In Colorado, about one-third of traffic deaths involve impaired driving, costing over 200 lives each year. Alcohol is involved in roughly 1 in 4 suicide deaths. And excessive alcohol use costs our state over \$5 billion annually. These are not separate issues. They are connected outcomes of the same risk environment.</p> <p>Prevention is about reducing that risk before it becomes system impact. Consistent guardrails, like a statewide 2:00 a.m. closing time, are part of that. This bill removes those guardrails. We are asking you not to increase preventable harm in a system that is already under strain.</p> <p>For that reason, we respectfully ask you to oppose House Bill 26-1330.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
--	---

## Broomfield Taxpayer Matters



**RE: HB26-1300 – House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee**

**Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 @ 1:30pm**

**Sponsors: Rep(s) Woodrow, Sen(s)**

Thank you, Chair Froelich, and Members of the House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee.

Thank you for considering this written testimony. My name is Sheryl Fernandez, and I represent Broomfield Taxpayer Matters, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to educate, empower, and advocate for the taxpayers across Colorado – NOT just in Broomfield.

**Broomfield Taxpayer Matters are in OPPOSITION of HB26-1300.**

At its core, this bill allows health service districts—entities created and approved by voters to provide healthcare—to expand into housing development **without meaningful local government approval**. That should concern every taxpayer in Colorado.

First, this bill represents clear **mission creep**. Voters approved these districts to deliver healthcare services—not to become housing developers. Expanding their authority into affordable housing fundamentally changes their purpose, without going back to the voters for consent.

Second, and more concerning, this bill **removes a critical layer of local control**. Under current law, major expansions like this require a “material modification” process—giving cities and counties, and ultimately residents, a voice. This bill bypasses that entirely. Instead, a district board can approve a major expansion of services with a simple vote, with little to no direct accountability to the broader community impacted.

That means decisions involving potentially millions in taxpayer-backed projects could move forward **without coordination with local planning, zoning, or fiscal priorities**.

Third, this creates real financial risk. Health service districts already have the ability to seek taxes and incur debt. Expanding into housing opens the door to **increased spending, new tax proposals, and long-term liabilities**—all outside the original intent voters approved. Taxpayers could be on the hook for projects that are complex, costly, and outside the expertise of these districts.

Finally, Colorado already has multiple entities focused on housing—local governments, housing authorities, and state programs. This bill adds **another layer of government involvement**, increasing duplication, inefficiency, and confusion about who is accountable when projects fail or costs escalate.

If affordable housing is the goal—and it’s an important one—then it should be pursued with **full transparency, proper oversight, and direct voter or local government involvement**.

HB26-1300 moves in the opposite direction.

For these reasons—mission creep, reduced local control, and increased taxpayer risk—I urge you to vote **no** on this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

House Transportation Committee

Colorado State Capitol

200 E. Colfax Ave.

Denver, CO 80203

Dear Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition of House Bill 26-1330.

I am writing to you today as a deeply impacted citizen and a grieving widow, whose life was forever changed by the devastating consequences of impaired driving. On the morning of December 23, 2024, my world was shattered when an impaired driver hit my husband's truck, causing his tragic death. His passenger survived, but now lives every day with pain, multiple surgeries, and haunting memories of that moment. No family should have to endure such heartbreak.

I am compelled to speak out because I do not want another family to experience the grief, loss, and lifelong pain that mine now bears. I firmly believe that stronger laws and stricter enforcement can save lives and prevent future tragedies like mine. I urge you to act now, before another name is added to the heartbreaking list of victims.

My husband, Nate, was a man of integrity, dedication, and deep love. Nate and I met in 1981 in Colorado, and after 43 wonderful years together, we chose to marry. On June 13, 2024, we celebrated our love as husband and wife. Nate's presence was a gift—an inspiration to everyone around him. His loss leaves a void that can never be filled, and his memory underscores the importance of safeguarding others from similar pain.

Together, Nate and I built a life filled with family, friends, and shared dreams. Nate started working at Auto Weave Upholstery in 1980, becoming a partner of Auto Weave Upholstery West in 1996. He took pride in his work, demanding perfection and attention to detail in everything he touched. His craftsmanship and pride touched many lives; he was truly a man who made others' dreams come true.

Now, I turn to the matter at hand: the proposed legislation, HB26 1330, concerning entertainment districts. While I understand the desire to invigorate Colorado's cities and promote economic growth, I am deeply concerned about the potential consequences of removing the size cap on entertainment districts and leaving hours of operation entirely to local discretion. Such measures could permit entire downtown areas to stay open until 4 a.m., or even 24/7, significantly increasing the risk of impaired driving incidents.

As a community, as families, and as individuals, we have a duty to prioritize safety and prevent the devastation caused by impaired driving. My personal loss is a stark reminder of what is at stake. Every life lost or forever changed by an impaired driver is a tragedy that no law or policy should allow to happen again.

I implore you to consider the devastating impact of this legislation carefully. Please vote to amend HB26 1330 to ensure that it does not inadvertently contribute to the rising toll of impaired driving fatalities. Let us work together to uphold the safety of all Coloradans and honor the memories of those we have lost by enacting laws that save lives, not end them.

Thank you for your time, your compassion, and your dedication to the well-being of Colorado's families.

Sincerely,

Brenda Reeh

Wife (widow) of Nate Oettinger

Leah Shafer

[leahmarie5255@gmail.com](mailto:leahmarie5255@gmail.com)

1045 Wheel Circle, Carbondale CO, 81623

My name is Leah Shafer, and I am proud to represent Mothers Against Drunk Driving as a Court Monitoring Intern. I currently monitor at the Larimer County Justice Center in Fort Collins. During my time with MADD since January of 2026, I have witnessed over 30 confirmed DUI cases in the short weekly periods I spend in court. These cases are often difficult to watch and process, and oftentimes leaves me feeling perplexed and disappointed with the amount of people that are impacted by DUI cases daily. I have seen a majority of these cases relate to Coloradans who are battling with serious drug and alcohol related dependency and addiction. It is not uncommon for DUI offenders to note their acceptance and intentions to attend rehabilitation facilities to help confront their alcohol addictions. There is an increasing problem with DUI occurrences in Colorado, especially since the pandemic. What coincides with this concerning rise in DUIs is often an increase of individuals who are battling with addiction. Addicts are a vulnerable population that pose a risk to themselves and others when they are around triggering substances. By not making it clear that Colorado's standard 2am alcohol cutoff time applies to proposed entertainment districts, we are putting fellow Coloradans at risk of further endangering themselves and others. It is important that a cutoff time is included in HB 1330, not to damper any potential economic activity, but to ensure the safety of our fellow Coloradans. If a district chose to keep bars open until 4am, another two hours are consequently being allocated where an individual can make poor choices and endanger their community. Law enforcement is put in an unsafe position when officers are starting and ending their shifts in a timeframe where DUI occurrences could heighten. Unfortunately, it is the reality for many Coloradans to start their workdays early in the morning, and extending bar hours puts these

individuals at risk for being involved in a DUI crash on their way to work. Additionally, there is a very targeted population that would take advantage of additional open hours for bars. Most individuals would not take advantage of being able to purchase alcohol in the early hours in the morning. The vulnerable population of addicts and substance dependents would be the main clientele. The individuals who I witness in court will be victimized by this inability to enforce a cutoff time. By passing HB 1330 without clearly amending for 2am to be the cutoff time for alcohol purchases, we are endangering all Coloradans. It is our duty to protect our fellow citizens, not endanger them with temptations that might turn deadly. It is not a question of if, nor of when, but of how many innocent lives we could lose if we turn to recklessly neglecting to set 2am as a cutoff time for entertainment districts under HB 1330. Thank you.

**House Transportation, Housing & Local Government**

**03/25/2026**

**HB26-1330 Alcohol Beverages Entertainment Districts**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Breeah Kinsella  Against  Colorado Providers Association	<p>Good afternoon Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Breeah Kinsella, I am the CEO of the Colorado Providers Association. We represent behavioral health organizations in every county of the state, including treatment providers, recovery organizations, and prevention providers.</p> <p>Our members provide full continuum service, not only responding to alcohol use disorder, but working upstream to prevent it. I am here today in opposition to House Bill 26-1330.</p> <p>I want to ground this in scale. A fiscal analysis from this session projected that addressing current alcohol-related impacts in Colorado requires over \$35 million annually. That reflects the level of strain alcohol is already placing on systems this committee oversees, including impaired driving, crashes, and emergency response.</p> <p>This bill increases risk.</p> <p>By expanding local control over hours and operations in entertainment districts, it increases availability and duration of alcohol access. From a prevention standpoint, those are two of the strongest predictors of harm. Late-night hours, particularly after 2:00 a.m., are when we see the highest rates of alcohol-related incidents.</p> <p>In Colorado, about one-third of traffic deaths involve impaired driving, costing over 200 lives each year. Alcohol is involved in roughly 1 in 4 suicide deaths. And excessive alcohol use costs our state over \$5</p>

	<p>billion annually. These are not separate issues. They are connected outcomes of the same risk environment.</p> <p>Prevention is about reducing that risk before it becomes system impact. Consistent guardrails, like a statewide 2:00 a.m. closing time, are part of that. This bill removes those guardrails. We are asking you not to increase preventable harm in a system that is already under strain.</p> <p>For that reason, we respectfully ask you to oppose House Bill 26-1330.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
--	---



March 25, 2026

House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203  
*Submitted electronically only*

Re: HB26-1330—Alcohol Beverages Entertainment Districts (oppose)

Dear Madam Chairwoman and Committee Members:

Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center is a non-profit law firm that provides free legal services to crime victims in Colorado, primarily by working to protect their privacy and victims' rights in criminal cases. We have worked with thousands of crime victims across Colorado, including many family members of homicide victims and victims of impaired driving.

The best way to support crime victims is to prevent them from ever being victims in the first place. This bill would increase the number of victims in our state, and because of that, we are opposed.

Roadway deaths in Colorado are already increasing at alarming rates<sup>1</sup>, and research shows that extending drinking hours increases the rate of all violent crimes. This includes crimes related to impaired driving, but also many others, like assaults, sexual assault, and homicide, where alcohol may be a contributing factor. In New York, there was an increase in violent crimes for each hour that drinking hours were extended<sup>2</sup>. By contrast, in Baltimore, reducing hours of alcohol sales was associated with a 29% decrease in violent crimes<sup>3</sup>.

Crime also costs a lot. It has been estimated that the cost of crime in Colorado is \$4,623 for every Coloradan, with a higher per capita rate in the Denver metro area<sup>4</sup>. Any financial benefit that might be gained by businesses who extend their drinking hours would be eliminated by the increased cost of the resulting crimes. This is even more significant at a time when funding for victim services continues to decline, leaving each of those potential victims unable to access the support and services they need to

---

<sup>1</sup> CDOT Fatal Crash Data: 236 lives lost in 2025, 36% more than in 2019

<sup>2</sup> Schofield & Denson, 2013

<sup>3</sup> Rosen, Trangenstein, Fullem, et. al., 2024

<sup>4</sup> Common Sense Institute

put their lives back together. This includes things like legal services, advocacy, crime victim compensation, court accompaniment, and medical and mental health care.

It is also important to note that crime doesn't care about borders. A change in drinking hours in any municipality, city, or county will not only impact the safety of that community, but also of all the surrounding areas. The safety of Colorado's citizens is more important than local control.

This bill would create more crime victims, at a time when they are already struggling in our state, and I am asking you to vote against it today.

Thank you.

*Kazi Houston*

Kazi Houston, MSW, JD  
Legal Director  
Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center

Dear Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition of HB26-1330.

When I think of the heartache and the grief that my family and I have suffered for the last 8 years; Thanks to a drunk driver who killed our son, Kyle, in a head- on crash early Thanksgiving morning 2016. I am filled with outrage and echo the words of J Frank Hanley, an Indiana Governor who was a champion against alcohol.

I bear no malice toward those engaged in the liquor business, much less toward those young men (and I will add women) who in society, by example or otherwise have been taught to drink, but I do hate the liquor traffic. I hate it as virtue hates vice, as truth hates error , as righteousness hates sin, as justice hates wrong, as liberty hates tyranny, as freedom hates oppression. I hate it for its intolerance. I hate it for its hypocrisy, I hate it for its commercialism, for its greed and for its love of gain at any price. I hate it for its domination of politics; I hate it for its corrupting influence in civic affairs and for the cowards it makes of public men (and women). I hate it for the multitudes of human wrecks it has made of men of outstanding ability and promise, for the prisons it has filled, for the insanity that it begets, and for the countless graves it has made in the potter's fields. I hate it for the mental ruin which it imposes upon its victims and for its moral corruption. I hate it for the homes that it destroys, and for the hearts that it breaks. I hate it for the grief it causes and for the tears. I hate it for the shadow it throws upon the lives of children, fore its monstrous injustice to multitudes of the blameless little ones, "I Hate it," concludes frank Hanley "as Abraham Lincoln hated slavery...

I 100% agree with these words that were spoken by Frank Hanley. I Hate It too!! What good is alcohol? What good would passing this bill bring to Colorado? In my experience the need to consume alcohol, at any time, has only brought grief and heartache.

A drunk driver took my son's life in a crash that occurred at 3 o'clock in the morning. One hour after the bars closed. The people who are out drinking at this time should not be given access to more alcohol. Especially at a time when there are less options for them to get a safe and sober ride home. Drinking and driving is the number one cause of death on our roadways. Increasing alcohol sales and consumption will increase the number of DUI's, DUI crashes and lives lost.

By all means if you want us to dig more graves for our sons and daughters, mothers and fathers for PROFIT and GAIN then go ahead and pass this heartless bill. If not, then please let's put it to rest once and for all!

I respectfully request that you do not pass HB26-1330.

Thank you,

Julie Nackos

Windsor, CO

Dear Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair and members of the Committee,

I am writing to share my experience as someone whose family was directly impacted by impaired driving, and as the wife of a first responder. I am writing to ask you to oppose HB26-1330.

On December 1, 2023, my husband, our 7-week-old miracle baby (who we struggled to conceive due to infertility struggles), and I were hit by a drunk driver. My husband had been drinking that night, so I drove—something so simple, something we did right—and it still didn't protect us from someone else's decision to drive impaired.

We are incredibly lucky to be alive. But surviving is not the same as being okay.

That crash robbed us of what should have been one of the most special times in our lives —being new parents. Instead of enjoying those early months, we spent them watching our baby in pain. For the first year of her life, she screamed in ways no parent should ever have to hear. We missed out on so much that we will never get back.

As the wife of a firefighter, I also see the ongoing impact in another way. My husband responds to these calls. He sees families on their worst days, and now he carries the added weight of our own experience. These are not just statistics—they are real people, real families, and lasting trauma.

Expanding alcohol consumption hours sends the wrong message at a time when impaired driving is already taking too many lives on our roads. Later hours mean more opportunities for impaired driving, and more families like mine.

Please protect Colorado families and prioritize safety on our roads. If a 2:00 a.m. consumption cap is not included in this bill, I respectfully ask that you vote no.

No family should have to live through what we did, but unfortunately, some live through even worse.”

Please oppose HB26-1330.

Sara Miller

Ault, Colorado



March 24, 2026

To the House Transportation, Housing & Local Government Committee:

I am writing to you today as the Sheriff of Douglas County to express my opposition to House Bill 26-1330. With 33 years of law enforcement experience and as a graduate of the FBI National Academy, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact that impaired driving has on our community. This legislation, as introduced, presents a significant risk to public safety that our state simply cannot afford to take.

HB 26 1330 proposes to remove the 100-acre size limit for entertainment districts and allows local licensing authorities to set their own hours of operation. This would permit a city to designate its entire downtown area as a district and potentially keep bars open until 4 AM or even 24 hours a day. Such a shift toward local control creates a dangerous lack of consistency. Impaired drivers do not stop at city or county lines. The current statewide 2 AM cutoff is a critical safety measure that prevents individuals from "barhopping" across jurisdictions in search of one last drink. Research shows that jurisdictions with longer drinking hours see increased drunk driving and DUI charges and of course more fatalities.

The statistics regarding road safety in Colorado are already alarming. In 2025, impaired drivers took 236 lives on our roads. This represents a 36 percent increase in fatalities since 2019 and a 10 percent increase in just the last year. Colorado now ranks eighth worst in the nation for alcohol induced deaths.

Beyond the risk on our roads, extending hours is proven to increase violent crime. In other regions, every one hour increase in drinking hours has been linked to a rise in aggravated assaults and non-gun violence. Conversely, when hours are reduced, communities have seen violent crime drop by 29 percent and homicides by 48 percent.

The economic burden is also severe. Each motor vehicle fatality costs approximately 9.4 million dollars in medical expenses, lost productivity, and emergency services. Excessive alcohol use already costs every Coloradan \$1,005 per year, which is the fourth highest rate in the United States. A cost-benefit analysis of extending hours found that the public costs would exceed the benefits by a 2.3 to 1 ratio.

We should be focused on making our roads safer, not encouraging more time behind the wheel for those who are impaired. I urge you to oppose HB 26 1330 or amend it to ensure the statewide 2 AM cutoff remains mandatory for all districts.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. M. Weekly".

Sheriff Darren M. Weekly  
Douglas County, Colorado

Good Afternoon,

My name is Polli Small. I have been a Colorado resident since 1980 and I appreciate this opportunity to share my thoughts with you today. I am speaking on behalf of my husband, Howard, myself and our family to tell you about our son, Ethan. He was a kind young man of 28 years old when he was horrifically killed by a drunk and drugged driver. He had hopes and dreams for his future and he inspired others through his writing. He loved being a Colorado native and spent many hours walking trails and running paths near where he lived. Ethan was living at the time in Colorado Springs and had driven up to Denver on Saturday morning, January 19, 2019. It was the day of the Women's March in downtown Denver and he was working as a Lyft driver to make a little extra income. He had just dropped a passenger off at the light rail station near Colfax and Osage Streets. He was proceeding on a green light through the intersection, when the exceedingly intoxicated, multiple repeat DUI offender, driving with a suspended license, ran the red light speeding at over 90 miles per hour, struck Ethan's car and he never even braked. Ethan's life was taken from him in a selfish, tragic and senseless moment. As a parent, the shock and pain of losing a child is unbearable and forever. Never again will I be able to hug him, tell him that I love him, celebrate birthdays and holidays together, maybe dance at his wedding or hold the children he will never be able to have. Our son is gone forever and we will miss him until the day we die. The impact of this selfish crime is immense and far reaching. Our lives will never be the same.

From my perspective, extending the hours that bars can serve alcohol will not only potentially put more drunk drivers on the road, making our roads unsafe it will add to the police enforcement burden that already exists. Our roads are already unsafe! NO good will come out of extending the time of alcohol sales. Too many people are losing their lives on our Colorado roads due to driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol ... a 100% preventable crime! Let's put an end to this senseless legislation once and for all and oppose HB26-1330. Thank you.

## **Suzanne McClung Testimony**

On the evening of May 16, 2018, I was driving on I-70 when an impaired driver drove without her lights on, onto an off ramp, turned the wrong way onto the highway, accelerated to full speed, and hit me head on. The officer who investigated the crash said that if the collision had happened 2 cm in a different direction, I would have been dead. He said it was the most egregious scene he had ever seen where there were no fatalities. The driver's car caught on fire, and I had to be removed from my car before first responders got there because it looked like mine might also catch fire.

I sustained multiple injuries from the crash. I had two broken legs, a broken wrist, a broken rib, a broken finger and a concussion. I had 3 surgeries in 5 days. I missed my son's high school graduation because I was in surgery. I missed my youngest's dance recital. I was in the hospital and rehab for 23 days, away from my family and uncertain about how everything would turn out. I spent more than 3 months in a wheelchair and couldn't be left alone. I had to learn to walk again. And then there was the emotional trauma...I cried daily through the first couple of months. It was so hard to lose my mobility and so hard to understand why someone would drive at 3 times the legal limit and also have THC in their system. I was very afraid to drive again.

I have been lucky to have an excellent recovery but it has taken an incredible amount of work and physical and mental health therapies. Those therapies continue. I still have pain in my left leg and right hip. I have recurring lower back issues that keep me from doing everything I'd like to do. My head doesn't turn as far to one side as it should because of issues in my neck related to the rib fracture. I still struggle to drive at night, especially on highways. It can still be difficult to be around people who are drinking or to hear people make jokes about getting drunk.

I oppose HB 26-1330 because it will allow more access to alcohol and lead to more crashes like mine, and even worse, more deaths due to impaired driving. Please stop this dangerous bill or amend it to require that entertainment districts may not serve alcohol past 2 am.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter,

Suzanne McClung

# Colorado District Attorneys' Council

3600 South Yosemite Street, Suite 200

Denver, CO 80237

(303) 830-9115

March 25, 2026

Michael Allen  
4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
PRESIDENT

Heidi McCollum  
5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
PRESIDENT-ELECT

Brent Nelson  
4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Brian Mason  
17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

Travis Sides  
13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT

Tom Raynes  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carron Barrella  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER/TRAINING  
COORDINATOR

Arnold Hanuman  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Tuan Nguyen  
CHIEF INFORMATION  
OFFICER

## Colorado General Assembly Committee on Transportation, Housing, and Local Government

**Madam Chairwoman, and members of the Committee:**

RE: HB 26-1330 - Alcohol Beverages Entertainment Districts

The Colorado District Attorneys' Council (CDAC) is the statutorily authorized service organization representing and serving the 23 Elected State District Attorneys and over 800 statewide Deputy District Attorneys. CDAC's primary function is threefold: 1) policy development and legislative advocacy before this body; 2) provision of training and education for prosecutors and law enforcement throughout the state on areas of criminal and constitutional case law and emerging legislative trends due to passage of justice-related bills; and 3) database management and other information technology services.

CDAC, on behalf of all 23 Elected Districts Attorneys, is **OPPOSED** to HB 26-1330 – "Alcohol Beverages Entertainment Districts." In order to take an "Opposed" position, all 23 Elected DAs must be in agreement.

Firstly, based on our reading of the bill, the removal of any limitation on the size of an entertainment district – of which there appears to currently be 14 throughout the state based on Department of Revenue Licensing data as of March 6, 2026<sup>1</sup> – significantly expands the area for which licensees can offer alcohol consumption in "common consumption areas<sup>2</sup>." This appears to create a significant increase in the applicable areas for which alcohol consumption in outdoor areas could occur, and thus, a corresponding law enforcement and public safety impact.

Secondly, and no less important, is the removal of any uniform restriction on the hours of operation limitation, to include selling and serving alcoholic beverages on licensed premises and within entertainment districts. The impact of such a policy change allows persons to seek-out and consume alcohol from one licensed premise to another due to inconsistent and sporadic facility closing hours. Other restrictions removing the size and designation of containers of alcohol provided by licensed

---

<sup>1</sup> Department of Revenue Specialized Business Group Liquor License Lists – Monthly Report: "All State Liquor Licenses (as of 3/6/26)". <https://sbg.colorado.gov/liquor-license-lists>

<sup>2</sup> "Common consumption area" means an area designed as a common area in an entertainment district approved by the local licensing authority that uses physical barriers to close the area to motor vehicle traffic and limit pedestrian access. Definitions. 44-3-103 (11), C.R.S.

premises attached to a common consumption area could allow persons to bring in alcohol to a common consumption area not purchased from a regulated facility. This raises additional enforcement concerns on excessive alcohol consumption within common consumption areas.

To put this into context, if several licensed establishments have differing closing hours in which alcohol can be sold and served, persons can obtain alcohol from different establishments, or people can bring in alcohol from outside the consumption area, creating an enforcement concern. Public consumption of alcohol and the consequences for those who then seek to drink and drive becomes a significant safety risk to the community with removal of important public safety and reasonable standards.

In Fiscal Year 2025 alone, there were approximately 15,768 Driving Under the Influence and Driving While Ability Impaired cases filed throughout the State of Colorado.<sup>3</sup> Of those, approximately 1,065 were at the Felony DUI level, which requires a person to have at least 3 prior convictions for alcohol-driving offenses prior to being charged at the felony level.

According to Colorado State Patrol and National Highway Traffic Safety (NHTSA) Data, impaired driving citations spike between 10 pm and 3 am.<sup>4</sup> A Report by the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (AAAM) also found that,

*“Policies such as sobriety checkpoints rightly are targeted to particular times of day and days of the week. . . . proportionately more miles are driven drunk on weekends (2.2%) than on weekdays (0.6%). The proportions also vary greatly by time of day: from an estimated 0.1% weekdays between 9AM and 1PM to 14.9% on weekends between 1AM and 6AM. That poses serious crash risks to shift workers who often must drive home late at night. Every weekday night, from 10PM to 1AM, one in 13 drivers is drunk (BAL≥0.08%). Between 1AM and 6AM on Saturday and Sunday mornings, 1 in 4 drivers has alcohol on board and 1 in 7 drivers is drunk.”<sup>5</sup>*

District Attorneys are dedicated to protecting the community and making public safety a top priority as part of their prosecutorial charge. HB 26-1330, unfortunately, takes us in the wrong direction as a state and creates the environment for additional safety and welfare concerns for the driving public.

**Please vote “NO” on HB26-1330.**

---

<sup>3</sup> Colorado Judicial Branch. 2025 Annual Report. Trial Court Annual Statistics. Search parameters – “Criminal” and “Driving Under the Influence.”

<sup>4</sup> Traffic Safety Facts: Research Note. “Time of Day and Demographic Perspective Of Fatal Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Crashes.” US Dept of Transportation, NHTSA. DOT HS 811 523. August 2011. <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/Publication/811523>. Accessed 3/25/26.

<sup>5</sup> Ted Miller, Rebecca Spicer, David T Levy, Diane C Lestina. “How Drunk are U.S. Drivers? Measuring the Extent, Risks and Costs of Drunk Driving”. The Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine. Annu Proc Assoc Adv Automot Med. 1998;42:353–367. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3400188/>. Accessed 3/25/26.

# Advanced Behavioral Therapy, PLLC

---

RE: HB26-1330 Entertainment Districts

1777 S. Bellaire St., Ste 260

Denver, CO 80222

[tim@advancedbehavioraltherapy.com](mailto:tim@advancedbehavioraltherapy.com)

Good day and thank you for considering this letter in relation to the House Bill before you. I am contributing this letter to implore you to consider the longer-termed effects of creating such entertainment districts. I am a Licensed Addiction Counselor in the state and have been involved in the Substance Use Disorder field since 2013. I have been in many environments and spoken with numerous individuals about their struggles. One thing that I have always heard and seen is the ease with which anyone can obtain alcohol. It is always readily available. It is always reliable for relieving them of their pain, their grief, their anxiety, their depression, their anger, their quiet screams for help. It is so readily available that certain grocers place it next to the cereal aisle, the bread aisle, close to the baby-care items. Making alcohol even more readily available is not the answer Colorado needs at this time. We cannot rely on alcohol to resolve our fiscal shortcomings by expanding access to this toxin. Across the medical industry, alcohol is a known toxin; a substance that inflicts harm on every organ in the body. The costs to Colorado's health care system alone is enough to off-set whatever tax revenue we believe creating such entertainment districts will generate.

Currently, we ask taxpayers to contribute approximately \$1.5-2 billion to alcohol-related health care costs. Annually. That number alone will increase, along with the increasing numbers we continue to see in alcohol-related crashes, injuries, and deaths. So, that taxpayer contribution will also rise. At what cost? At what cost are we prepared to incur for trying to satisfy an industry that continues to show us it does not want to amend or change its business model? Interestingly enough, our younger generations are not engaging in alcohol use at the levels our 40-year old+ demographic is. This leads me to question: why would we cause more alcohol-related health issues in an aging demographic that will then require that much more Medicare services as they age? Then, why would we create such entertainment districts when the demographic coming up is not going to engage with alcohol? Are we prepared to see these districts open up to businesses that will run on possibly psilocybin, cannabis, and other psychedelics? That's what these younger generations are leaning towards. How prepared are we to open those doors? How prepared are

we to watch this short-term solution take on more downstream effects that our larger Colorado community might find unacceptable?

Let us consider what short-term goals we are actually reaching towards and start to heed what long-term consequences lie ahead. Let us not continue with this “pay later, reap now” mentality that is reactionary propositions to issues we need far more intentional strategies to guide us. I implore you, entrusted member of our State representation, to fully weigh the burdens such a bill as this will cause, especially in the short-term. I appreciate you have significant issues to consider, daily. And I appreciate the need to “do something”. This is not the “something” to do; at least not in its current iteration. I would encourage you to seek out more safety parameters to specifically and implicitly spell out in such legislation; for example, ensuring that those establishments, those businesses that engage in making alcohol available for consumption will not stay open past 2AM. Please do not make alcohol that much more readily available. Please pay attention to the 20+% of our adult population who engage in binge drinking, monthly. Please pay attention to the over 65% of our soon-to-be aging population (40+ y.o.’s) who are drinking alcohol habitually; that means at least 3 times a week. Every week. Each month. Please pay attention to the data that is being collected in our state highlighting the significant impacts alcohol-related issues are already having; and these numbers will only increase. Our mental health system is struggling right now to even pretend to keep up with growing need. Colorado is projected to have an over 4500 behavioral health provider shortage by the end of this year. The impacts from Medicaid issues alone are being felt in the mental health industry, to a disheartening effect. Treatment centers are closing. Community agencies are closing. Rural populations continue to struggle to access any level of care: 1 in 321. 1 provider for every 321 residents in rural areas. That number drops merely to 1 in 210 in urban areas.

And I’m willing to bet dollars-to-donuts that the near-35% of Coloradans who had mental health needs unmet could find alcohol exponentially faster than they would get a call back from any mental health provider in their area. I’ve seen what self-medicating does. Let’s not allow that to continue. Thank you for your time and attention to my letter here. I wish you the best.

In earnest,  
Tim Kitchens, LAC, LPC

SUD Specialist, Recovery Advocate, Concerned Coloradan

HB26-1330, the Alcohol Beverages Entertainment Districts bill

Peter and Liane VonFeldt of Loma, Colorado

Dear Committee members

We strongly OPPOSE HB26-1330.

I am Peter VonFeldt with my wife Liane VonFeldt, representing ourselves in opposition to this bill in unison with Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Extending the drinking hours will increase drunk driving throughout Colorado. Even if a municipality opts not to adopt the extending hours law, this will not stop someone who has gone into another municipality who has adopted this law from driving from one to another or from a person whose bar just closed to hop to another bar that is open. Which will create an extended area for the driver and more people being affected by this decision.

This bill will increase drunk driving thus increasing the amount of DUI charges. There are less police officers serving the increased population of Colorado. Per Chamlin & Scott, the increased hours led to an increase in law enforcement services calls, along with public intoxication and drunk driving. Per Schofield & Denson, the increased hours will increase crime along with violent crimes. More drunk driving and impaired driving will cause more individuals to be injured and even killed on our Colorado roads.

In 2007, our 19-year-old daughter and her 19-year-old boyfriend were killed by a drunk driver. That man started drinking in Denver with his meal. He bought more alcohol and drank it during his trip from Denver to Grand Junction. He bought more alcohol in Glenwood springs to continue on his way to Grand Junction. City boundaries could not contain his drinking. That drunk driver was 3 times the legal limit 12 hours after the crash. Both of our families and all of our friends and their friends were devastated for years to come. It ripped apart families too. We don't want any family or person to ever have to go through this again. This law just doesn't extend the hours of consumption, it increases the hours that that person will be impaired and have the ability to cause havoc for a much greater time period.

Because of all of these reasons and more that we haven't mentioned, we strongly oppose HB 26-1330. We feel that the bill needs to be killed now and not be allowed to proceed.

I want to thank you all for your time and consideration, Thank you!

Peter and Liane VonFeldt

Loma, Colorado