



April 2026

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: AAUW SUPPORTS HB26-1123-Preventing Sexual Abuse in Jails

Dear Senate Judiciary 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 around Colorado.

AAUW has led the fight on women's health and safety issues, and we have made progress over the years. Yet there is still work to do. House Bill 1123 recognizes dangers faced by women defendants in local jails, and provides new protections against sexual abuse. Restrictions on strip searches, protocols for responding to and reporting suspected sexual abuse, protection for those who report abuse, compliance with federal standards, and loss of P.O.S.T. certification for offending peace officers are important and long-overdue measures.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports House Bill 1123 and requests your AYE 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 written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Hon. Su Ryden
AAUW Colorado Advocacy Director

16699 E. Kentucky Ave.
Aurora, CO 80017
303.898.5797
suryden25@gmail.com

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.

Senate Judiciary

04/08/2026

HB26-1123 Preventing Sexual Abuse in Jails

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Amy Diamond For themselves	<p>Hello Committee Members,</p> <p>Please vote yes on HB26-1123.</p> <p>I was horrified to learn how casually or arbitrarily strip searches are being done in jails.</p> <p>As someone who has worked in an institutional setting where the industry (psychiatry) has been reforming itself over time from the days of blatant cruelty towards patients, I can imagine a similar pathway here by establishing a civilized standard and enforcing it. In psychiatry, in other words, there are ethical and clinical guidelines for contraband searches.</p> <p>People in custody before arraignment and people incarcerated afterwards also deserve humane treatment and minimum-necessary infringement of their 4th Amendment rights. If strip searches are genuinely being performed for safety reasons, effort should be applied to preserve the dignity of the detained. This is to say, a detained person in the criminal justice system and a psychiatrically institutionalized person should receive the same level of privacy protection unless we are to regard the strip search process for detained folks as part of their sentence, which of course itâ€™s not.</p> <p>The goal should be to work towards using scanners or sensors for anything that requires visualizing a personâ€™s bodily recesses. I understand the importance of preventing weapons & contraband on units, but it also seems important to know the success rate of what is actually expelled by the humiliating ritual and weighing that against its harms.</p>

	<p>Finally, I believe documentation should include concrete benchmarks met for reasonable belief, and should be completed by both officers or personnel involved, and tracked. Video should be cctv only, no body cams.</p> <p>Please vote yes.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amy Diamond</p>
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Sexual
Violence
Prevention
Association

Phone: 703-424-9936

Email: info@s-v-p-a.org

Website: www.s-v-p-a.org

To:

Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee

200 E Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80203
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Date: April 8, 2026

Dear Members of the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify virtually and submit this written endorsement. I am the CEO of the Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA). We strongly urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to pass HB26-1123, 'Preventing Sexual Abuse in Jails.'

In July of 2025, former Jail Commander Edward Aber was charged with 117 counts of invasion of privacy after viewing more than 100 videos of strip searches conducted on women incarcerated at La Plata County Jail. He viewed these videos over 3,000 times, all for his own sexual gratification. Some of these incarcerated women are pursuing legal action. The SVPA stands firmly with them.

Commander Aber is not an outlier. He is a symptom of a system that was permitting state sexual violence. It is critical that we understand what that means. When a system allows invasive searches to be routinely recorded, fails to strictly control access to that footage, and lacks strong accountability mechanisms, it creates the conditions for sexual violence to occur and continue.

At the SVPA, we call this state sexual violence. State sexual violence is when sexual harm is required, allowed, or ignored by government agents or institutions.

It takes two forms: sanctioned and tolerated. State-sanctioned sexual violence is when the government itself allows or requires nonconsensual sexual act. This is often justified as necessary for 'safety' or 'security.' Strip and cavity searches are a clear example. Currently, Colorado law permits officers to forcibly expose and examine people's genitalia without consent and record it all on video. That is state-sanctioned sexual violence that this bill will address.

State-tolerated sexual violence when sexual harm is technically illegal, but the system allows it to continue by failing to stop it or hold anyone accountable. Commander Aber viewed thousands of recordings of women being forcefully stripped and recorded. Not once or twice. Not accidentally. Not for work purposes. Over 3,000 times. That did not happen in a vacuum. It happened because the system around him failed to catch it, failed to prevent it, and failed to protect those women. That is state-tolerated sexual violence that this bill will address.

I am deeply grateful to the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA) for their extraordinary advocacy and leadership in drafting this legislation. HB26-1123 directly addresses the structural conditions that allowed state sexual violence to persist in Colorado.

It will prevent state-sanctioned sexual violence by requiring that two officers independently determine 'reasonable belief' before any strip search is conducted, and that the reason and results are documented. It will prevent state-tolerated sexual violence by limiting the recording of strip searches, restricting access to footage showing nudity, barring reproduction of such recordings, and protecting whistleblowers who come forward. It will also strengthen reporting, oversight, and accountability systems under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) ensuring incarcerated people know their rights, have access to advocacy services, and that all complaints are processed adequately.

Passing this bill will not heal the hundreds of people who have already been harmed. That truth sits heavy with me and it should certainly sit heavy with all of you. The Colorado government failed to protect these women. Colorado laws will continue to cause state sexual violence until there is change. Let the grief and shame of this moment propel you to pass HB26-1123.

Once law, this bill will transform the systems that allowed these egregious harms. This is a massive step towards preventing state sexual violence. You can set the standard for the rest of the country.

I speak as an expert in sexual violence prevention. I speak as the CEO of the SVPA. Most importantly, I speak as a survivor. Pass HB26-1123.

Colorado has the opportunity to right its wrongs and lead the nation in confronting state sexual violence. This is not just a bill. It is the beginning of a movement.

Thank you,



Omny Miranda Martone
Founder and CEO
Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)



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Thank you,



Omny Miranda Martone
Founder and CEO
Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)



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Phone: 508-367-5080

Email: info@s-v-p-a.org

Address: 704 Donham Ct, Virginia Beach VA

To

New York State Legislature

Senate & Assembly
State Street and
Washington Ave,
Albany, NY 12224

Date: February 9, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the New York State Legislature,

We are the Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA), a national nonprofit dedicated to preventing sexual violence systemically. We strongly urge you to pass [S3394A/A3226A](#), the Ceasing Repeated and Extremely Egregious Predatory (CREEP) Behavior Act, to protect all New Yorkers who are being stalked. CREEP is sponsored by Senator Andrew Gounardes and Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas.

Stalking is the unwanted pursuit of another person through repeated harassing or threatening behavior. There is a common misconception that celebrities and public figures are the main targets of stalking. Though celebrities and public figures face high rates of stalking, an overwhelming majority of cases are against the general population. Everyday people are stalked by their coworkers, clients, students, friends, or even a stranger who became obsessed with them through social media.

Currently, New York laws only civilly protect stalking victims who are related to or have had an “intimate relationship” with their stalker. This fails to cover many types of stalking. Victims are falling through the cracks of New York’s existing laws. Every victim deserves protection and support! It is unacceptable for help and safety to be contingent on the type of relationship the victim has with their stalker.