

HB26-1315
Accurate Documents for Parole Assessments

House Judiciary Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Linda Hutchinson and I represent the League of Women Voters of Colorado. The League has been nonpartisan for all of our 106 years. The League of Women Voters of Colorado supports HB26-1315, Accurate Documents for Parole Assessments.

The League supports a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages. The League also believes that local journalism acts as a necessary bridge for transparency, allowing citizens to monitor the decisions and actions of their government.

This bill protects the public in more than one way. Auditing for inaccurate parole assessments is obviously a critical step to ensuring that the public is kept safe from people who are not low risk. These audits also keep the public safe by ensuring that accurate records are used to implement rehabilitation, second-chance programs, and successful reintegration.

Another way this bill protects the public is by providing public access to documents used to assess parole risk and the parole risk assessments themselves. That public access to records enables the media to serve as a government watchdog. Ultimately, if it had not been for an open record inspection by the media, these inaccuracies in parole risk assessment might have been kept in the dark, there might never have been audits, and the public would have been less safe.

The League of Women Voters encourages you to vote yes on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.