

I AM HERE TO ASK YOU TO VOTE YES ON HB26-1285 This bill is a

commonsense bill that would provide protection and safety for the children of Colorado and Northglenn.

I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN MY HOME 38 YEARS IN NORTHGLENN - I AM ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL- I AM THE SAME DISTANCE FROM THE MENTAL HEALTH RESIDENTIAL FACILITY AS THE CHILDREN WHO WALK HOME PAST THIS HORRIBLE HOUSE MOSTLY UNACCOMPANIED. SEXUAL PREDATORS AND SOME WITH MENTAL ILLNESS WILL HURT THEM AND SCAR THEM THE REST OF THEIR LIFE. I CAN SPEAK ABOUT THIS AS I AM A VETERAN AND SUFFER FROM PTSD AND MST- MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA FROM MY YEARS IN SERVICE.

SINCE THIS FACILITY OPENED 2 YEARS AGO, I HAVE NO LONGER FELT SAFE IN MY HOME. I FEEL LIKE A PRISONER IN MY OWN HOME BECAUSE OF THE RECKLESS DECISION BY THE STATE OF COLORADO. I CAN'T TAKE A WALK OR RIDE MY BIKE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD BECAUSE OF FEAR I FEEL FROM THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THESE TRANSITIONAL HOUSES.

I DON'T TRUST THE STATE OF COLORADO AS THEY TRIED TO SNEAK THEM IN UNDER THE RADAR 2 YEARS AGO. MY CONCERN IS FOR THE CHILDREN WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND ALL THE

CHILDREN LIVING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT IS VERY CLOSE TO THIS FACILITY ALONG WITH MY OWN FEARS.

I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS ROOM OR THOSE LISTENING ONLINE OR HOW MANY THIS WILL AFFECT BUT LIVING WITH MST AND PTSD FROM SEXUAL TRAUMA HAS AFFECTED MY WHOLE LIFE SINCE I WAS 19 YEARS OLD.

SEXUAL TRAUMA AFFECTS THE VICTIM AND THEIR FAMILIES THEIR WHOLE LIFE!

IT SICKENS TO ME TO KNOW THAT THE STATE OF COLORADO AND THOSE IN THIS ROOM THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FACILITY TO PUT THIS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY WITH CHILDREN. THE CHILDREN HAVE NO VOICES AND HAVE NO IDEA OF THE DANGER, YOU HAVE PUT THEM IN. RECENTLY I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER- I WOULD LIKE TO LIVE A STRESS-FREE LIFE AND NOT HAVE THE CONSTANT CONCERN OF MY SAFETY- I QUIT SLEEPING WITH MY WINDOWS OPEN SINCE THE FACILITY OPENED. I AM SCARED OUT OF MY MIND AND I CAN'T AFFORD TO MOVE OR CHANGE MY SITUATION. I AM STUCK!!!

I AM PLEADING WITH YOU ALL TODAY TO DO THE RIGHT THING FOR THE RESIDENTS OF NORTHGLENN.

I SUPPORT THE HELP FOR MENTAL HEALTH AS I TOO SUFFER FROM PTSD. BUT THIS IS THE WRONG NEIGHBORHOOD. DO BETTER COLORADO. WE

WANT OUR CHILDREN TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE-
WALK TO SCHOOL, WALK TO CHURCH YOUTH
GROUP – PLAY OUTSIDE WITH THEIR FRIEND AND
WALK TO THE PARK- THERE IS AN AUTISTIC
CENTER THAT JUST WENT IN AND AN AMUSEMENT
PARK FACILITY APPROX A QUARTER MILE AWAY
WITH BATTING CAGES WHERE CHILDREN GATHER
TO PLAY. – THIS FACILITY HAS MADE PARENTS
PAUSE AND HAVE TO TALK TO THEIR CHILDREN
ABOUT THE DANGERS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD THAT HURT PEOPLE-ESPECIALLY
CHILDREN. THE NUMBER OF CALLS TO THE POLICE
APPROX 70 PLUS CALLS TO THIS FACILITY IS
UNACCEPTABLE. THAT ALONE IS A HUGE
INDICATION THAT THE PEOPLE THERE ARE NOT
MONITORED OR SCREENED PROPERLY THEY NEED
TO GO SOMEWHERE- NOT NORTHGLENN! THANK
YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Kind regards,

Northglenn Resident

House Judiciary

04/14/2026

HB26-1285 Admission to Mental Health Residential Facility

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Colton Eveland For himself	<p>My name is Colton Eveland, and I am a resident of Northglenn. While my children do not attend Stukey Elementary, I am submitting this testimony because I believe that a threat to one school zone in our city is a threat to them all. The state's current placement strategy is fundamentally flawed. All school zones should be protected spaces, regardless of which specific neighborhood they serve. To place sex offenders or individuals that the state admits are too unstable to participate in their own legal defense just 852 feet from a playground is a failure of judgment. Most importantly, it is wholly inappropriate and dangerous to house sex offenders in the immediate vicinity of a school. There is no amount of supervision in a standard residential home that can mitigate the risk this population poses to children. The 72 police deployments already recorded at the Grant Drive facility are proof that the current system is not working and that the safety of our children is being gambled with daily. I am asking you to restore the common-sense boundaries that keep our students safe. I urge you to listen to the families of Northglenn and vote YES on HB26-1285.</p>
Zach Eudis For himself	<p>I am writing to demand a Yes vote on House Bill 26-1285. It is a chilling reality that we even have to debate this. Pedophiles should not be gifted easy access to children, yet that is exactly what the current state policy allows. I shudder when I remember that someone in our government found the motivation and the justification to carefully sneak in convicted sex offenders and allow for them an unobstructed view of children at Stukey Elementary. This wasn't an oversight. It was a choice. To allow those housed at a facility as a result of sexual assault to be placed less than 900 feet from a school where children are at constant risk of offense is a grotesque violation of public safety. We know the state was secretive about this rollout because they knew the public would never consent to this. We know the difference between civil mental health patients and sex offenders, and we know that the supervision at these facilities has already failed 72 times, requiring police intervention. By voting against this bill, you are personally endorsing that future 911 call where a child is harmed at the hands of someone from within that facility. You are choosing the rights of sexual predators over the safety of the children in my neighborhood. We are watching, and we are paying attention to who is whispering in your ear</p>

	behind the scenes. Stop treating my community as though we are all uneducated or not worthy of basic safety measures. Do the right thing. Protect our children. Vote Yes on HB26-1285.
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House Judiciary

04/14/2026 Upon Adjournment

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<p>Daniel Whitten Amend themselves</p>	<p>My name is Dan Whitten. I currently reside in Nebraska, but I am submitting testimony as someone whose roots remain firmly in Northglenn. I grew up there, and my little brothers even attended Stucky Elementary. It breaks my heart to hear about the crisis unfolding in the neighborhood I once called home. It is asinine that a House Bill is even required to establish a safety buffer between a facility that plans to house sex offenders and an elementary school. Common sense should have dictated from day one that placing individuals deemed too unstable for the courtroom or individuals on the sex offender registry right next to a school is inherently inappropriate and dangerous. I am aware that there are a ton of lobbyists probably chirping behind the scenes, urging you to kill this bill for the sake of funding. I am asking you to ignore those voices. Listen instead to the families who have to live with the consequences of these decisions every day. Please do the right thing for the children of Northglenn. I urge you to vote YES on HB26-1285.</p>

I am writing a letter to you to ask that you vote yes on HB26-1285. This bill is a commonsense bill that would provide protection and safety for the children of Colorado. This bill was written by Democrat Lori Goldstein and Kyle Mullica. This bill will require that NO registered sex offenders be allowed to live in a mental health transitional living facility.

I would like to start with my feelings about why this bill should be passed and then provide you with facts on why as well. Children, parents and guardians deserve to know that they are a priority. We all deserve to feel like we can walk safely to school, day care, church youth group, recreation centers and parks. Children shouldn't have to worry about who is lurking around the corner. Parents shouldn't have to worry about their child being able to walk 900ft to school to arrive safely. Many families in the area are low income, second language English speakers, single families or families working multiple jobs to survive with the Colorado's cost of living. Parents shouldn't be forced to decide if they quit their jobs and take food off the table to walk their child to school so they don't get kidnapped and assaulted. Stukey Elementary had to ask for volunteers to walk children from the bus stop to the school since the walking path is directly in the path of the mental health facilities in Northglenn, CO. These facilities are located at 11275 and 11255 Grant St.

Since opening the Grant Street facilities in 2024 there have been over 70 calls to 9-1-1. The recorded calls varied from mental health help, assault, stabbing, drugs on site, threats, and missing persons.

This facility location in Northglenn is a level 1, which means patients there can come and go as they please, no one is being monitored. A lack of staff to watch and monitor sex offenders and easy access to nearby children from school will surely increase the calls for help to 9-1-1. Northglenn is a small city, working with a small budget and does not have the funds to increase police staff, which will be needed if the state allows predators to take over the area.

The facility currently only helps mental health patients such as recovering addicts, depression patients, PTSD survivors, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Registered sex offenders are not experiencing a mental health problem, they are forensic science predators, which is very different and dangerous. Combining the two together will create issues for the actual mental health patients and put them at safety risk as well.

In 2005 Colorado passed safe routes to school and invested 8 million dollars in the program for the 2025-2026 school year. Allowing registered sex offenders to then live within a safe route to school, is very contradictory to the program. Are you willing to waste tax payers money as well as jeopardize children's safety?

According to the states site, Adams County ranked the highest in Colorado for sex trafficking victims at 34%. I doubt that number will decrease if we give offenders easy access to helpless victims.

I have given you both facts and feelings. I hope you care about children's safety as much as I do. I hope you will listen to the constituents of Colorado and vote in their best interest. Please vote yes on HB26-1285 and protect the most vulnerable.

Melissa Ryan

Adams County Resident

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Re: HB26-1285

Written Testimony

Greetings,

I write in opposition to HB26-1285.

Nothing in 30 years of study supports distance restrictions having any positive effect on preventing people forced to register from re-offending against children. It just makes common sense if you stop and think about it. 1000 feet or 2000 feet of pavement will not stop or discourage someone determined to get to a school. The good news is that sex offender recidivism is the lowest measured of all offenses save for murder.

The Colorado legislature has directed the Sex Offender Management Board in statute to only implement evidence-based policies and procedures. And that makes sense. Things should be done for a deliberate, positive reason. Not arbitrarily and capriciously.

Sadly, this smacks of the oft repeated tactic of making policy to appear to the public to be "tough on crime". Usually for the purpose of reelection. That is politics, not science. Playing politics with people's lives and liberties. That motivation is shameful and unbecoming the people's elected representatives.

Again, I would urge this body to invest resources into primary prevention. Advancing competent effective therapy for those struggling with minor attraction (from birth) has been shown to be quite useful in preventing primary and secondary sexual offending against children. If this therapy was more widespread, easily available, affordable, safe and widely advertised it could have a major impact on keeping children from being sexually abused in the first place. Many fewer child victims. Many fewer offenders that the state would have to expend resources on managing.

We now conclusively know that registries and restrictions don't work. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Think about it.

Thank you!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyle C. Akers, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kyle C. Akers, M.D.

P.O. Box 2432

Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2432

kylecakers1@gmail.com

719-337-7440

My name is Rebekah Robinson-Eudis and I am a resident of Northglenn. I want to urge a “Yes” vote on HB26-1285. I recognize the need for mental health facilities, but I oppose the conflation of two vastly different populations. Mixing standard patients with sex offenders compromises clinical integrity and community safety. A mental health diagnosis is not a loophole to bypass public safety standards. Some patients in need of such facilities are also survivors of trauma, and they shouldn’t be forced into a predator-prey housing dynamic that ignores the reality of a criminal conviction for predatory behavior. There is a colossal difference, and the state clearly knows this as shown by their lack of transparency in the siting process. The info was withheld from my community until last minute via a simple e-mail sent to local PD’s general inbox. There was no meaningful community engagement, no due process, just an attempt to bypass local oversight. The 1,000-foot buffer is a necessary common-sense standard. A key failure of HB22-1303 is that it deliberately hid the state’s plan to house sex offenders. HB26-1285 addresses this omission by creating the legal distinction that HB22-1303 ignored. It is simply a matter of legislative common sense to recognize that different populations have different geographical requirements for the safety of the public. By passing HB26-1285, you are adding the missing safety guardrail to the state's existing behavioral health framework. While the state has the authority to build these beds, it does not have the authority to place sex offenders right next to a school. The facility has already seen 72 calls for service, including a violent stabbing. If the state can’t safely manage a standard transitional population now, it is a massive liability to introduce a forensic group. HB26-1285 does not discriminate nor stop mental health treatment- it ensures the state is mindful about where it places convicted predators. Pass the bill as written. Reject any amendments to add 'whenever feasible' or similar language, as these are deliberate disingenuous loopholes. The opposition prioritizes real estate convenience over community impact and will return to their own safe neighborhoods, but the residents of Northglenn are the ones who must live with the permanent consequences of your decision. Represent the people over the lobbyists. Restore the balance. Please protect our children and keep sex offenders out of school zones. Thank you.

April 14, 2026

My name is Martina, and I am a resident of Northglenn living near the transitional housing units on Grant Drive. My husband and I attended the meeting on Sunday afternoon because we are deeply concerned about the impact these homes are having on our immediate neighborhood. I also voiced my concerns at the City meeting last night Monday, April 13, 2026 to hear from the Northglenn attorney and voice my concerns about the new business for autistic early childhood aged children directly caddy corner to the north of the transitional homes.

We live in very close proximity, and on a daily basis we witness residents walking past our home while smoking cigarettes and marijuana. This is not an occasional occurrence, it is consistent and visible daily, and it is especially troubling given the number of young children who live and play on our block. Families in this area should be able to feel safe in their own homes and yards, and right now, many of us do not. As tax payers and law abiding citizens we should be able to walk around our neighborhood without having to feel scared, worried or uneasy.

This is not a new concern. The fact that these issues continue to be raised over time underscores both the ongoing nature of the problem and the lack of meaningful resolution.

Our city's police resources are increasingly strained by the impact of these transitional homes, and it raises serious questions about whether the individuals being placed in them are adequately prepared to live within a community setting. Many of these individuals are struggling with significant mental health challenges, yet they are being housed in neighborhoods where children are present every day of the week.

This situation is deeply troubling and reflects a failure on the part of our state's elected officials, who are entrusted to serve and protect the people of Colorado. It is difficult to reconcile policies like these with a commitment to law-abiding residents. Instead, it appears that priority is being given to managing disruptive behavior rather than safeguarding the most vulnerable among us—our children, who rely on adults and institutions to ensure their safety and well-being.

I would also like to draw your attention to a critical factor that has not been adequately addressed: the SOAR Autism Center currently under construction across the street at 500 Malley Drive in Northglenn. This facility will serve very young children on the autism spectrum in an early childhood setting, where children are dropped off daily, much like a childcare center.

The proximity of this center to these housing placements raises urgent and legitimate safety concerns. Parents should not be placed in the position of questioning whether it is safe to drop off their four-year-old child, particularly one with additional developmental vulnerabilities, steps away from an environment associated with ongoing criminal activity, frequent police response, and individuals who may not be prepared to safely live within a residential community.

Reports of serious incidents in the immediate area, including violence, further intensify these concerns. Equally troubling is the lack of clear and transparent communication to the community

regarding these events, leaving residents uninformed about risks that directly impact their safety and daily lives.

This is not a theoretical concern—it is a real and immediate issue affecting families today. Situations like this erode trust, destabilize neighborhoods, and force residents to consider leaving the communities they have invested in for years. My own family is among those now questioning whether we can continue to safely live here.

The children who will be served at this center are among the most vulnerable members of our community. They depend entirely on adults and public systems to ensure their safety. That responsibility cannot be taken lightly. I urge you to fully consider the placement, oversight, and safeguards surrounding these housing decisions and to prioritize the protection of children and law-abiding residents above all else.

Within just a very short distance, we now have Stukey Elementary, this new autism center, a nearby Muslim community center on Malley, and numerous family homes. Placing or continuing to operate housing in this location where there are ongoing concerns about substance use and safety creates an environment that is not appropriate for children, families, or vulnerable populations.

I urge you to take a closer and more immediate look at the full impact of this situation. This is not an isolated issue affecting a single property or group—it directly impacts the safety, well-being, and quality of life of an entire community.

Our neighborhood is already facing significant challenges, including ongoing concerns related to homelessness and public safety. Introducing additional high-risk placements without sufficient safeguards only compounds these issues and places further strain on residents.

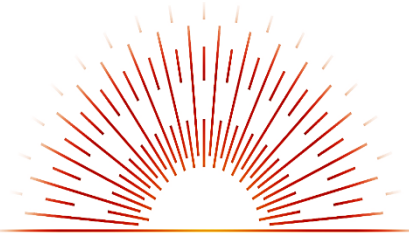
At its core, this is a matter of protecting children and families. Parents should not have to question whether it is safe for their children to wait for a school bus, walk to and from school, or spend time in their own neighborhood. No family should feel uncertainty about their child's safety due to exposure to environments where illegal activity, substance use, or potentially dangerous individuals may be present.

I ask that you consider this issue not just as policymakers, but as individuals responsible for the welfare of families like mine. The decisions being made have real, daily consequences for law-abiding residents who deserve to feel safe in their own community.

Public policy must strike a responsible balance—one that supports those in need while also upholding the safety and security of the broader community. I urge you to prioritize that balance and take meaningful action to protect the residents, families, and children who rely on you.

Lastly, I would like to emphasize the importance of accountability and moral responsibility in the decisions before you. As it is written in Philippians 2:3–4, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.”

I urge you to reflect on these principles as you consider the impact of your decisions on the broader community. Thoughtful, compassionate leadership requires balancing the needs of all individuals while ensuring the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable.



TEACHING HUMANE EXISTENCE

9725 East Hampden Ave Suite 400 ♦ Denver, Colorado 80231 ♦ 303-504-6188 ♦ Fax 303-504-6219

Re: HB26-1285

Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Lauren Rivas. I am a treatment provider, evaluator, and clinical supervisor with the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board, and I have been providing sex offense-specific treatment for approximately 15 years. I also serve as Chair of the SOMB Application Review Committee and as an appointed member of the SOMB Board. Today, however, I am speaking in my capacity as a treatment provider and Executive Director of a large offense-specific treatment agency working directly with individuals in treatment in the Denver area.

I want to begin with a situation I see regularly in my clinical work within urban communities.

Imagine an individual who has been released from custody and is doing exactly what we want someone to do to reduce risk. They are engaged in treatment, complying with supervision, and struggling with significant mental health needs. Their probation officer and treatment team agree that placement in a residential mental health facility would stabilize them and significantly reduce risk to the community.

But then the housing search begins.

One residential facility is near a school. Another is within a buffer zone of a park. Another program is located near a childcare center. One by one, appropriate treatment placements disappear—not because the individual is inappropriate for treatment, but because the facility's location becomes disqualifying.

Eventually, the outcome is something none of us want: the individual remains unstable in the community, cycles through crisis services, or becomes homeless. At that point, the burden shifts to law enforcement, emergency systems, and already strained community resources.

That is the practical reality policies like this can create.

I appreciate the intent behind House Bill 26-1285. Protecting children and communities is a priority we all share. However, research consistently shows that residence restrictions such as the 1,000-foot rule proposed in this bill are not aligned with the actual patterns of sexual offending and may create unintended consequences for both treatment systems and public safety.

Urban areas have a high density of schools, childcare centers, and parks. When a 1,000-foot buffer is applied around those locations, large portions of the city quickly become unavailable for housing or treatment placement.

The reality is simple: in dense urban areas, a 1,000-foot buffer does not just limit housing—it can effectively eliminate it.

This can significantly restrict where individuals can legally live or receive care, leading to housing instability, clustering in a small number of remaining areas, and additional strain on both treatment providers and law enforcement supervision.

Research also consistently shows that residence restrictions do not significantly reduce sexual reoffending. These policies often assume a “stranger danger” scenario near schools or parks. In reality, the overwhelming majority of sexual offenses against children—over 90 percent—are committed by someone known to the victim, such as a family member, acquaintance, or trusted individual within the child’s social network.

Because of this, geographic buffers around schools do not address the circumstances under which most offenses actually occur.

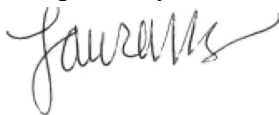
What the research does consistently show is that stability matters. Stable housing, treatment engagement, employment, and pro-social supports are among the strongest protective factors associated with reducing reoffending.

Policies that unintentionally undermine those stabilizing factors may ultimately work against the safety goals they are intended to achieve.

Public safety is strengthened by stability, treatment, and supervision—not by policies that unintentionally create housing instability or displacement.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of the clinical and research perspectives on this issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lauren Rivas".

Lauren Rivas, LPC