

Senate Finance

04/21/2026

SB26-163 Regulation of Gaming & Sports Betting

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

| Name, Position, Representing | Typed Text of Testimony |
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| Alma Olivas Against themselves | <p>Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee.</p> <p>My name is Alma Olivas, and I am the owner of Olivas Racing and a proud member of the Rocky Mountain Quarter Horse Association. I am here today in strong opposition to SB26-163.</p> <p>This bill may be presented as an administrative restructuring, but for those of us in the horse racing industry, it is much more than that. SB26-163 eliminates the Colorado Racing Commission, the one body specifically dedicated to understanding and regulating horse racing in our state, and places our industry under the authority of gaming regulators whose focus is casinos and sports betting.</p> <p>Horse racing is not just another form of gaming. It is an agricultural industry. It supports breeders, trainers, owners, jockeys, farriers, veterinarians, feed suppliers, and rural communities across Colorado. The Racing Commission exists because our industry has unique needs that require specialized oversight, expertise, and representation.</p> <p>By eliminating that commission, this bill removes the direct voice of horse racing in Colorado government. It places the future of our industry into the hands of a regulatory body whose priorities are not ours. That is not streamlining – that is dismantling.</p> <p>What is even more concerning is how quickly this process is moving. Many stakeholders, including horse owners, breeders, and racing organizations, were made aware of this proposal only days ago. Four days is not enough time for the people most affected by this legislation to review the bill, organize input, and participate meaningfully in this process.</p> |

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| | <p>If this change is truly in the best interest of Colorado racing, then why is it being rushed? Why are the stakeholders whose livelihoods depend on this industry being given almost no time to respond?</p> <p>Legislation that fundamentally changes the regulatory structure of an entire industry should be transparent, deliberate, and collaborative. This process has been none of those things.</p> <p>I urge this committee to reject SB26-163, or at the very least delay action until the racing community has been given a fair opportunity to be heard.</p> <p>The future of Colorado horse racing deserves thoughtful consideration, not a rushed decision.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> |
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