

Dear Members of the Colorado State Senate,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB26-100, specifically regarding its application to local government-operated youth sports programs.

Our community already maintains rigorous safety standards that meet or exceed the intent of this bill. We require background checks at least every 18 months, with a seven-year review period and no limitations for crimes against children. These safeguards are actively enforced and reflect our strong commitment to participant safety.

However, SB26-100 would impose requirements that significantly undermine our ability to provide accessible youth sports programming.

Our community includes a large military population, and many of our volunteer coaches have lived or served internationally. Requiring international background checks before each season would eliminate an estimated 30% of our volunteer coaches. At a time when we already face a shortage of volunteers and are forced to turn away hundreds of children from affordable programs. I know the bill wants to protect kids in sports; however, this bill has a strong potential to prevent even more kids from participating in healthy, affordable activities. Communities like mine give out \$1,000s in scholarships every year to kids who would not be able to participate any other way.

Additionally, the requirement for all volunteers to obtain CPR and First Aid certification creates another barrier to participation. Volunteers already commit approximately 20-36 hours per season for practices and games, in addition to required onboarding and training. Adding an extra 8-12 hours of certification time will further discourage participation and reduce the number of available coaches.

Importantly, our programs already ensure that trained personnel are present where risk is highest. At all games, city staff and contracted officials who are CPR and First Aid certified are on-site. The only setting where certified personnel may not be immediately present is during practices held at city parks. Even in those cases, trained city staff are available to respond within minutes at any time of day. This existing structure provides a reasonable and effective level of safety coverage without placing additional burdens on volunteers.

SB26-100 applies a one-size-fits-all approach that does not account for the realities of well-managed local government programs. Rather than improving safety outcomes, it risks reducing access to youth sports by driving away volunteers and increasing operational strain.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reconsider the inclusion of local government programs in this legislation or provide exemptions for communities that already meet strong safety standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Gordy McCormick*

*City of Fountain*

*Parks & Recreation Director*

*U.S. Army (Retired)*

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**Senate Health & Human Services**

**04/30/2026**

**SB26-100 Youth Sports Safety Requirements**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
James Farris Against Town of Granby Rec	<p>These new regulations would make it nearly impossible to field volunteer coaches for our programs. I know there are many smaller communities that would be in the same boat as Granby if this were to pass. Coaches already do not want to volunteer due to several factors including extensive trainings and difficult parents along with balancing their own personal schedules. I think the ultimate goal here for youth sports organizations is to provide the opportunity for kids to play. It seems like there continues to be more and more strict guidelines put on organizations to not make this opportunity possible for kids. Without coaches you can't have a league.</p> <p>Furthermore, I do not know how it is possible for an organization to form teams, find coaches, and get them CPR certified within a few weeks of a registration deadline closing. If this is passed I could see many organizations not wanting the hassle and the burden this would put on them, and just cancelling programs.</p>