

Senate Finance

05/07/2026

HB26-1043 Transportation Network Co Discriminatory Practices

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Kirsten French For Guide Dogs for the Blind	<p>On behalf of Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB), the largest guide dog school in North America, we support HB26-1043 to address the critical transportation inequalities facing the 59 active guide dog teams we serve in Colorado.</p> <p>2024 Rideshare Survey</p> <p>A 2024 GDB study revealed the pervasive nature of rideshare discrimination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">â€¢ 83% of guide dog handlers have experienced rideshare denials.â€¢ 46% reported significant psychological impacts.â€¢ 27% experienced a net loss in community participation.â€¢ 16% faced direct economic impacts. <p>This data shows these denials are indiscriminate, affecting handlers regardless of age, race, or gender.</p> <p>Concerns & Recommendations:</p> <p>While we support the intent of HB26-1043, we are concerned that recent amendments weaken its efficacy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Training Timelines: The current 6-month window for drivers to complete service dog training is extensive. This "grace period" creates a vacuum where handlers continue to face discrimination under the guise of driver "unawareness." Training should be a prerequisite for platform access.2. Penalty Reduction: Lowering penalties for discriminatory acts reduces the incentive for TNC compliance.3. Transparency: We urge the committee to maintain robust reporting requirements (as outlined in the L.001 amendment) to ensure transparency regarding the number of reports made and the specific outcomes of investigations. <p>We thank the committee for its commitment to ensuring that digital ride-hailing is truly accessible to all Coloradans.</p>

