

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

05/11/2026

HB26-1141 Discriminatory Practices in Public Schools

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Andrew & Sarah Forcina Against themselves	Bad Bill. Limits Free Speech
David Bullock Against themselves	<p>- I oppose HB26-1141 as currently written because it was expanded beyond public schools to now include private K-12 schools, private universities, faith-based organizations, and student groups.</p> <p>- Religious schools and ministries should not be forced to abandon their sincerely held beliefs in order to operate in Colorado.</p> <p>- Colorado should protect both students and constitutional freedoms including religious liberty, free speech, and parental rights.</p> <p>CO needs to stop the infringement on the right of parents. School choice is a win in this state, but that choice needs to be free from this type of regulation. I have three school-age children, I'm a career veteran, and my wife is an educator. All religions should be allowed to practice, and that includes religious education for kids, per their parents' or guardians rights.</p>
Edward H Against themselves	Greetings, My name is Edward. I oppose the proposed HB26-1141 bill due to its opening the door for subjective complaints and government overreach into religious and moral expression. At least apply it to only PUBLIC institutions, not private faith-based schools as this would chill freedom of religion.
Esther Lee Against themselves	My name is Esther Lee, and I strongly oppose HB26-1141 as it is currently written.

	<p>What concerns me most is that this bill has expanded far beyond public schools and now directly affects private schools, faith-based universities, ministries, and student organizations throughout Colorado.</p> <p>As a parent and person of faith, I believe families should have the freedom to choose educational environments that align with their deeply held values and beliefs. Many families intentionally choose private and faith-based schools because they want their children educated in communities that uphold their faith traditions and moral convictions.</p> <p>I'm deeply concerned this bill creates a chilling effect on free speech, religious freedom, and freedom of association. Students should be able to participate in faith-based or pro-life groups without fear that their beliefs could trigger investigations or complaints through the Colorado Civil Rights Commission.</p> <p>Religious schools and ministries should not be forced to abandon sincerely held beliefs in order to continue serving students and families in Colorado. That is not tolerance. That is coercion.</p> <p>I'm also concerned that the grievance and enforcement structure in this bill opens the door for subjective complaints and government overreach into religious and moral expression.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that the committee adopt the amendments recommended by the Colorado Catholic Conference:</p> <p>First, limit the bill so it applies only to public K-12 schools and public higher education institutions.</p> <p>Second, remove the language regarding pregnancy and parental status from Section 2.</p> <p>Colorado can protect students while also protecting constitutional freedoms like religious liberty, free speech, parental rights, and freedom of association.</p>
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	<p>If these amendments are not adopted, I believe this bill threatens the integrity and autonomy of faith-based schools and organizations across our state.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>John Faltermeier Against themselves</p>	<p>I oppose HB26-1141 as currently written because it was expanded beyond public schools to now include private K-12 schools, private universities, faith-based organizations, and student groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious schools and ministries should not be forced to abandon their sincerely held beliefs in order to operate in Colorado. • This bill creates a chilling effect on free speech, religious freedom, and freedom of association for students, teachers, ministries, and faith-based organizations. • Students should be free to form faith-based and pro-life groups on campus without fear that their beliefs could trigger complaints or investigations by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. • The bill’s grievance and enforcement structure opens the door for subjective complaints and government overreach into religious and moral expression. • Many Colorado families chose private and faith-based education specifically because those schools uphold values and beliefs consistent with their faith traditions.
<p>Jon Ellison Against themselves</p>	<p>I oppose HB26-1141 as currently written because it was expanded beyond public schools to now include private K-12 schools, private universities, faith-based organizations, and student groups. It is bad enough that one group's worldview and set of standards should prevail in the public school setting, against others who have differing view. It is wholly unconstitutional to impose those values on individuals and families who, while paying exorbitantly for public schooling, do not participate in it due to the difference in deeply held values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious schools and ministries should not be forced to abandon their sincerely held beliefs in order to operate in Colorado. • This bill creates a chilling effect on free speech, religious freedom, and freedom of association for students, teachers, ministries, and faith-based organizations.

	<p>â€¢ Students should be free to form faith-based and pro-life groups on campus without fear that their beliefs could trigger complaints or investigations by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission.</p> <p>â€¢ The bill’s grievance and enforcement structure opens the door for subjective complaints and government overreach into religious and moral expression.</p> <p>â€¢ Many Colorado families chose private and faith-based education specifically because those schools uphold values and beliefs consistent with their faith traditions.</p> <p>Listen to all the people, not just the ones who think like you do, and drop this bill.</p>
<p>Nicholas Bukowski Against themselves</p>	<p>Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am here today to oppose House Bill 26-1141, and I urge this committee to vote no “ without qualification.</p> <p>This bill, as written, has been expanded far beyond public schools to include private K-12 schools, private universities, faith-based organizations, and student groups. That is a fundamental problem “ not a technical one. No amendment can fix a bill that is wrong at its core.</p> <p>Religious schools and ministries should never be forced to abandon their sincerely held beliefs in order to operate in Colorado. Colorado families chose private and faith-based education specifically because those institutions uphold values consistent with their faith. This bill disrespects that choice.</p> <p>HB26-1141 creates a chilling effect on free speech, religious freedom, and freedom of association. Students should be free to form faith-based and pro-life groups on campus without fear that their beliefs will trigger complaints or government investigations. The bill's grievance and enforcement structure invites exactly that overreach.</p> <p>This is not a matter of needing the right amendments. The very premise of applying this bill to private and faith-based institutions is a threat to</p>

	<p>religious liberty, free speech, and parental rights – constitutional freedoms that Colorado has an obligation to protect.</p> <p>I ask this committee to vote no on HB26-1141. Thank you.</p>
<p>Susan Whitman Against themselves</p>	<p>To whom it may concern: As a retired public and private school teacher, it would seem that this bill is counter productive to the idea of religious freedom and the separation of church and state. The public school setting already has most of this already in place. Therefore it would seem that it is a punitive attack on Christian Schools which should be allowed to stand on their values and principles. I have grand children who are home schooled, attending public and private Christian schools. Those who are attending private schools pay dearly for providing an education that aligns with their beliefs. We are supposed to live in a free country where individuals are free to choose. What you are proposing would nullify that freedom and would appear to over stretch the boundaries of the authority of a Democratic government. I strongly disagree with this action. Please DO NOT attempt to take away a parents rights in the matter of their children’s education.</p>
<p>Terri Carver Against themselves</p>	<p>This is former State Representative Terri Carver. I oppose HB26-1141 which is a weapon against parents and faith-based organizations, which will be wielded against by the CO Civil Rights Commission in violation of Coloradoans' freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and fundamental parental rights. This is a grotesque violation of fundamental liberties in the US Constitution.</p> <p>This will chill free speech, and other constitutional rights. This is an outrageous violation of fundamental rights.</p> <p>I urge an no vote</p> <p>Terri Carver Colorado Springs</p>
<p>Threcia Henry Amend themselves</p>	<p>• I oppose HB26-1141 as currently written because it was expanded beyond public schools to now include private K-12 schools, private universities, faith-based organizations, and student groups.</p> <p>• Religious schools and ministries should not be forced to abandon their sincerely held beliefs in order to operate in Colorado.</p> <p>• This bill creates a chilling effect on free speech, religious freedom, and freedom of association for students, teachers, ministries, and faith-based organizations.</p>

	<p>â€¢ Students should be free to form faith-based and pro-life groups on campus without fear that their beliefs could trigger complaints or investigations by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission.</p> <p>â€¢ The billâ€™s grievance and enforcement structure opens the door for subjective complaints and government overreach into religious and moral expression.</p> <p>â€¢ Many Colorado families chose private and faith-based education specifically because those schools uphold values and beliefs consistent with their faith traditions</p>
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