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Subject: Vote No on HB26-1309

Dear Honorable State of Colorado Senators and Representatives:

Last year, over 700 Coloradans came to the Capitol in opposition to HB25-1312 concerning the same language that we see in HB 1309 regarding coercive control in parental custody decisions.

In February 2026, Sen. Wallace's SB 18 was again stripped of the same language following public outcry.

HB 1309 prohibits parents from stopping their children from hanging out with bad influences, monitoring their child's bank account to ensure good financial habits, using "find my phone" to ensure they know where their child is located to ensure safety, using "screen time" app to protect their child from negative internet exposure and even throwing away their child's old unused toys could be considered abuse under this bill.

HB26-1309 offers a broad definition of "coercive control" in domestic violence cases to include a parent who does not affirm their child's professed "trans identity." Parents who attempt to offer compassionate care for their children suffering from gender dysphoria could have their parental custody rights revoked under HB26-1309, and their children removed from their homes. Two similar bills attempted to do this in the last year and were forced to amend following the public outcry of hundreds of Coloradans in the Capitol.

HB 1309 violates the First Amendment and Constitutional precedent protecting parental rights from state overreach, including *Troxel v. Granville* (2000) (U.S. Supreme Court, 530 U.S. 57 (2000)) which held that parents have a fundamental right to make decisions concerning the care, custody, and control of their children.

Parental rights can even be stripped from a parent before their child is born. Under Section 2, if a male partner is accused of interfering or controlling the pregnancy outcomes of his child, he could be subject to state-sanctioned penalties.

We should be extremely concerned whenever government policy is to remove children from their family, not for abuse or neglect, but because parents and children disagree about deeply personal beliefs and everyday life decisions where parents have an obligation to protect and guide their children.

*(Insert your own personal message to the CO Senators and Representatives regarding your opposition to this HB26-1309) My personal message was the following:*

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "*The political community has a duty to honor the family, to assist it, and to ensure especially: the freedom to establish a family, have children, and bring them up in keeping with the family's own moral and religious convictions and the freedom to profess one's faith, to hand it on, and raise one's children in it, with the necessary means and institutions*" (CCC 2211). It is the natural right of parents, as the primordial and inalienable authority in the family, to ensure their children are protected (CCC 2221).

HB26-1309 redefines health-related abuse to include a male partner advocating for the life of his preborn child if he opposes the mother's decision to abort their child. Human life is sacred from conception to natural death. This is a truth affirmed throughout Church's Catholic Social Teaching.

The *Catechism* informs us, "*direct abortion is gravely contrary to the moral law*" (CCC 2271). *Men share in the duty to protect preborn children from conception and also share in the responsibility of abortion as either protectors of life or accomplices in the "grave offense" of abortion* (CCC 2272). Additionally, this HB26-1309 disregards the role of the father in the preborn child's life.

The Catholic Church's and general teachings of all monolithic religious beliefs are clear on the problems within HB26-1309, which, if enacted, would detrimentally hurt our society, and especially the family, which the law was *originally intended to protect*.

In closing, the broad definitions in Sec. 2, 14-10-103 present *massive state overreach* for normal parental behaviors to protect their children in everyday life. To wit: HB 1309 goes as far as to prohibit parents from stopping their children from hanging out with bad influences, monitoring their child's bank account to ensure good financial habits, using "find my phone" to ensure they know where their child is located to ensure safety, using "screen time" applications to protect their child from negative internet exposure, and even throwing away their child's old unused toys could be considered abuse under this bill.

These are quite contrary to keeping our children safe in the world we live in today. It is concerning and unjust whenever enacted government policy is to *remove* children from their families, not for abuse or neglect, but because of the parents' well-founded beliefs on human sexuality.

I, as a faithful Christian Catholic and registered voter, join all of your concerned Colorado constituents in contacting you directly now, during these last days of the legislative session, to implore you to vote **"NO"** on HB26-1309.

Respectfully Yours  
A long-time Colorado Voter,

(Name  
Email Address  
Mailing Address)