



Legislative Report from the Colorado Catholic Conference

So far in the 2026 Legislative Session **301 House bills** have been introduced, and **131 Senate bills**.

Our first *Catholic Lobby Day at the Capitol* is on **Friday, March 6th**. Archbishop Aquila will open the day with a prayer over the House of Representatives. We welcome *all Catholic Faithful!* **Please share** and RSVP to Treyton Lamphier at tlamphier@cocatholic.org. There is a flyer we sent out via email and social media.

Schedule of Events for Catholic Lobby Day:

8:30am	Meet outside the House Gallery on the 3rd floor
9:00am	Archbishop Samuel K. Aquila offers Opening Prayer in the House of Representatives
9:45am	Meet outside the Gallery on the 3rd floor
10:00am	Lobbying training and breakfast burritos
11:00am	Tour of the Capitol and Lobbying
12:00pm	Adjourn

A New Bill of Concern introduced this week is:

HB26-1292 Scholarship Granting Organizations

WE OPPOSE. HB26-1292 requires all private schools that enroll students on the federal tax credit scholarship program to abide by the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA) requirements, including not "discriminating against" sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. This includes: admissions, enrollment, academic performance, access and participation in services, and retention. Schools in violation are subject to injunction. Schools will be required to publish their non-discrimination compliance on their website. This bill restricts the religious integrity and autonomy of Catholic and other faith-based schools that do not adhere to the state definition of gender ideology. By doing so, it restricts education opportunity for thousands of Colorado children who would otherwise be able to choose a Catholic or faith-based school with their privately funded school choice scholarship.

HB26-1292 is a gross overreach of the state and violation of the First amendment protections of speech and expression. In *Espinoza v. Montana* (2020), the U.S. Supreme Court already ruled that a state cannot discriminate against a faith-based school in their tax credit scholarship program. Furthermore, in *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra* (2018), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the state of California could not compel the speech of crisis pregnancy centers by forcing them to disclose abortion information on their websites. HB 1292 forces schools to publish non-discrimination code that violates their sincerely held belief. It therefore contradicts U.S. Supreme Court precedent, the constitution, and parental rights.

HB26-1292 is a direct response to the new federal tax credit created by the U.S. Congress in HR1 last July. Gov. Polis supports the adoption of the tax credit, which could generate potentially hundreds of millions of dollars for Colorado students that will go directly to support the student.

BUDGET

With the Supplemental budget package passed, the next big item for the budget will be the Long Bill. It will be in the House first at the end of March or first week of April.

For FY2026-27, we are facing a revenue deficit of nearly \$1 billion. That is after we had to fix another nearly a billion in revenue deficit for FY2025-26.

Our Bills Next in Committee:

Wednesday, March 4:

HB 1040 Sterilization Rights of Person with Disabilities:

AMEND/OPPOSE.

Hearing: Senate Health and Human Services, time: Upon Adjournment (could be as early as 10:30am - we suggest signing up for both in-person and remote)

Our position on HB26-1040 has changed due to abortion lobby amendments in House Health committee.

HB 1040 *intends to prohibit* coercion or involuntary sterilization of people with disabilities. 31 states have laws allowing for court-ordered sterilization, including Colorado. The bill is good because it prevents coercion and discrimination of the disabled community; and sterilization is illicit because it separates the marital act from transmission of human life and mutilates the body.

HB 1040's original Sec 2 line 16 is problematic, however, because it includes providing information on "less intrusive measures to prevent pregnancy," which often means contraception or abortion in Colorado law.

The House Health Committee's two amendments from the abortion lobby allow for a court appointed Medical Durable Power of Attorney under C.R.S. Article 14 of Title 15, part 5 to make decisions for a person with an intellectual or developmental disability regarding whether or not that person can maintain their pregnancy **or be forced into an abortion.**

The amendment removes any power by the individual with an intellectual or developmental disability to object to sterilization or an abortion by their Medical Durable Power of Attorney, as directed by the court. This strips the bill of its intent and empowers persons other than the mother with the ability to end the life of the preborn child that is in the woman of the person with the intellectual or developmental disability.

HB26-1105 Discuss Adoption Info. with Pregnant Persons.

WE SUPPORT.

Hearing: House Health & Human Services at 1:30pm

SUPPORT. HB26-1105 allows for a willing medical provider to discuss adoption information with a pregnant mother 24 hours before an abortion is scheduled. This is not mandatory, however, at least gives the option to have someone on site discuss adoption.

SB26-075 Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Activity Offenses:

WE SUPPORT.

Hearing: Senate Judiciary 1:30pm

This bill is similar to the Minor Sex Trafficking bill the CCC supported (SB26-015). It aims to increase penalties around human and sex trafficking in Colorado.

Monday, March 9:

HB26-1243 CDPHE Regulation of Abortion Clinics:

WE SUPPORT.

Hearing: House State Affairs Committee at 1:30pm

HB26-1243 requires that abortion clinics be held to the same regulatory standard as other comparable surgical institutions, such as ambulatory surgical centers and hospitals, because emergency care may be needed.

Currently, abortion clinics have no state oversight, which put women at risk.

This bill will add in regulations and license standards within Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for abortion clinics. Last year, a Planned Parenthood in Fort Collins fell under scrutiny because one young woman lost her life due to an abortion complication with delayed emergency response by Planned Parenthood. These situations could be mitigated with proper emergency response regulations.

This is commonsense legislation to ensure the safety of women in Colorado.

Results from our bills this week:

HB26-1014 Extend Colorado Job Growth Incentive Tax Credit:

WE SUPPORT.

RESULT: **PASSED 9-2**

This bill extends the Colorado Job Growth Incentive tax credit through 2034. It was set to expire in 2026. It allows employers to receive a tax credit against tax liability, if certain conditions are met.

HB26-1141 Discriminatory Practices in Public Schools:

WE OPPOSE.

RESULT: **PASSED 9-3**

Under the guise of "non-discrimination," the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA) actually discriminates against any person and public or private institution that expresses a belief about human sexuality or marriage that is contrary to the state definition.

In practical terms, this bill would not permit student organizations at colleges or K-12 campuses to host speakers (such as Turning Point USA) or events to promote marriage as between one man and one woman or argue that gender and biological sex are the same thing and only two (male and female), which conform to one's biological sex assigned at birth.

Freedom of speech and expression are God-given rights protected by the First Amendment to the US Constitution, and HB26-1141 is woefully in violation of both.

HB26-1110 Vulnerable Adult Financial Exploitation Banking:

WE SUPPORT.

RESULT: **PASSED, as amended 8-3**

HB26-1110 will provide protections to vulnerable adults engaging with financial institutions. The protection is for elderly 70+ and At-Risk individuals over 18. This bill aligns with the Church's social justice teaching to protect the vulnerable and ensure they are not exploited.

SB26-115 Post-Conviction Relief for Certain Offenders:

WE SUPPORT.

RESULT: **PASSED, as amended 4-3**
(Our amendment, ensuring human traffickers were excluded, **was passed**)

SB26-115 allows certain eligible offenders to petition for resentencing, if the minor was younger than 21 when sentenced or at least 60 years or older at the time of the petition, and both have served 20 years.

Eligibility excludes violent criminals, those charged life without the possibility of parole, and those convicted of a sex offense, which includes human traffickers for sexual servitude.

When justice respects both accountability and human dignity, especially for victims, it becomes a true expression of the common good, serving our communities and reflecting mercy.

SB 115 reflects a shift from vengeance to restorative justice within the criminal justice system.

SB 115 affirms the possibility of redemption while maintaining justice, introduces structured, rigorous review, rather than capricious release, and preserves victims' rights and public safety, especially in cases of severe harm and exploitation.

Practically, from 2018-2023, only 17 offenders in the First Judicial District in Jefferson County were sentenced more than twenty years for property or drug crimes. That is around 10 percent of all the 20-to-life sentences in that district.

These parameters ensure that those who are eligible to re-enter society through SB 115 are not those who pose a threat to the safety of society and still respects the dignity of the victims of offenders who are charged with more serious crimes.

And, SB 115 gives *hope* to offenders who experienced penitence in the prison system and have earned their second chance.

Bills to Watch (we will issue action alerts soon):

SB26-097 Decriminalize Adult Commercial Sexual Activity

Hearing: TBD

SB26-97 decriminalizes/legalizes prostitution in the State of Colorado. The data show that in states where legal prostitution occurs, *more* sex trafficking takes place. Legal prostitution of adults provides a facade for human traffickers to operate.

Reports indicate that in places with legalized prostitution, individuals often do not receive proper protections. While the bill rightly criminalizes pimps, the decriminalization of prostitution puts female sex workers in highly dangerous positions (pimps would otherwise protect them from), increasing violence and abuse of women and the state cost of law enforcement to protect these women.

The legalization of prostitution is inherently harmful, dehumanizing, and a driver of modern-day slavery of sex trafficking.

Prostitution is inextricably linked to human trafficking and exploitation.

Furthermore, legalizing prostitution will likely increase cases of unplanned pregnancies and likely increase abortion and the destruction of human life.

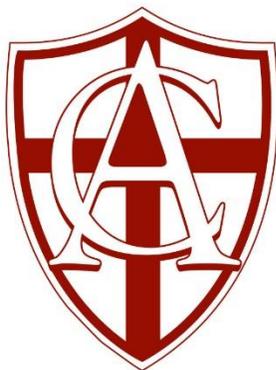
The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2355) states that prostitution injures the dignity of the person who engages in it, reducing them to an instrument of sexual pleasure.

Furthermore, The Church teaches that paying for sex is a grave sin that violates chastity promised in baptism.



CATHOLICS FOR
THE
COMMON GOOD

A NEW CATHOLIC ACTION



CATHOLIC ACTION
FOR FAITH AND FAMILY