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Exhibit B

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, January 30, 2024
House Bill 24-1071

TRANSCRIBED BY:
Deborah A. VanDemark, RPR, CRCR
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303.475.0897

1 (Recording started at 6:22:26 PM.)

2 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Okay. We'll proceed
3 directly to the final bill of the evening. That is House
4 Bill 1071. We'll give Rep Garcia a moment to get
5 situated at the table.

6 (Background talking.)

7 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Rep
8 Garcia, if you're ready to proceed, go ahead and make
9 your opening comments about House Bill 1071.

10 REPRESENTATIVE GARCIA: Thank you,
11 Mr. Chair, members of the committee. I am absolutely
12 thrilled and honored to bring 1071 to this committee.
13 I'm going to start with just reminding all of us that a
14 right is not truly a right if some can't access it. So
15 House Bill 24-1071, also known as Tiara's Law is a bill
16 intended to ensure that everyone has access to a law that
17 promotes humanity and dignity.

18 This bill will clarify what is currently
19 ambiguous language leaving some of our community members
20 from being able to access a law that allows people who
21 have a felony on their records to petition for a name
22 change for gender-affirming reasons under good cause as
23 would a person with a felony on their record who seeks to
24 change their name for good cause such as marriage.
25 Nothing about the process on how to petition for a name

1 change is going to change. The final determination still
2 lies with the court. Their criminal record still follow
3 them. This bill does not in any way allow someone to
4 hide their criminal records. This bill, Tiara's Law,
5 promotes humanity and dignity.

6 You'll hear stories about how the way this
7 law is currently written limits access to critical
8 support in cases of natural disasters or tragedies
9 including the Club Q shooting because of being forced to
10 use a legal name that they do not identify with. You'll
11 hear about how something many of us take for granted,
12 having a name that matches and affirms our gender
13 identity, even those with felonies who affirm their
14 identity by changing their last names when they get
15 married, can be and is out of reach for others.

16 I want to also state that this bill is not
17 about the merits of whether or not in general name change
18 should be allowed for people with felonies. We know that
19 this right already exists. What this bill is about, it's
20 making sure that those who currently are removed from
21 being able to access this right can.

22 As we continue with this committee
23 hearing, I want to thank all of my colleagues on both
24 sides of the aisle for engaging in respectful discourse
25 by not using derogatory language or misgendering

1 witnesses or using a witness's dead name, but rather
2 referring to the witnesses as their stated names and
3 gender pronouns. I sincerely hope that the witnesses
4 signed up to also testify will follow suit and engage in
5 respectful discourse and share their perspectives and
6 opinions on this bill by not disparaging other members or
7 our community or other witnesses.

8 This body is one that is charged with
9 evaluating, analyzing, and creating law. This room is
10 one where people should be able to come, share their
11 stories, be who they are without fear of being attacked,
12 without fear of being disparaged. And it is my request
13 that all of us, whether we are sitting in this room or
14 online, continue with the purposes that we're here for
15 today. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Rep
17 Garcia. Appreciate your comments about the tenor we
18 should aspire to and the way that we should and should
19 not aim to have a discussion. And as Chair, I affirm and
20 ratify your comments.

21 Members, are there questions of the
22 sponsor? Rep Soper.

23 REPRESENTATIVE SOPER: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Representative Garcia. I guess
25 the question I have for you -- and I'm certainly always

1 open to any change in law. That's for sure. But
2 something like the name -- the name change statute that's
3 already in play, I guess I'd like to understand a little
4 bit more about the problem. Is it that the district or
5 county court are not necessarily granting a name change
6 for good cause as it currently exists, or are there other
7 problems that are existing that I'm not understanding?

8 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Rep Garcia.

9 REPRESENTATIVE GARCIA: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair.

11 Representative Soper, we will have
12 witnesses that will share with the committee their
13 particular experiences on why this is necessary. But
14 what I will just state broadly is that the ambiguity in
15 this bill under good cause -- because good cause is not
16 defined, it is difficult for many of our transgender
17 members to find attorneys to support them in this path
18 towards -- to achieving a name change that they desire.
19 And so by establishing that good cause does include
20 gender affirming, it will be easier for our transgender
21 community members to be able to state their case and find
22 attorneys who are willing to support them.

23 REPRESENTATIVE SOPER: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Rep Soper, good for
25 now? Okay.

1 Members, other questions of the sponsor?

2 All right. We'll proceed to witnesses.

3 Members, we have a pretty good number of folks signed up
4 to speak on this bill, nearing 30. Given that, out of
5 respects for both sides, we will alternate. The sponsor
6 has indicated a preference for proponent witnesses to go
7 first. So we will do that. We'll call up one panel for,
8 one panel against, one panel for, one panel against. In
9 the event that we run out of folks on one side first,
10 we'll just sort of proceed until everyone has had a
11 chance to be heard. We have a mix of folks in person and
12 online.

13 We may have hybrid panels, if that's just
14 how the order sorts out. We'll keep to three minutes. I
15 will ask everybody to observe that strictly. You'll see
16 the red light blinking. We have to reserve the right
17 here to just kind of bring you to a stop point out of
18 fairness to all of the witnesses who want to be heard
19 this evening.

20 With that, we will invite up our first
21 panel of witnesses. And let's see. Mr. Imballa
22 (phonetic), if you could please listen for names, and if
23 you see somebody connect online, I've got a couple of
24 things to juggle up here. I'll try to get in person
25 versus remote right. If we could start with Erika Unger,

1 Tiara Kelley, and Tiara (sic) Brown, and MJ
2 Coleman-Jackson.

3 All right. Thank you all for being with
4 us and waiting well into the evening. Whoever would like
5 to start, let us know your name and if you're speaking in
6 connection with any particular organizational
7 affiliation, and please go ahead. Note about the
8 microphones. There's a little tiny gray button set into
9 the table. Press that, and when the light is green
10 you're good to go.

11 TIARA KELLEY: Good evening. My name is
12 Tiara Latrice Kelley, and I am the namesake of this bill,
13 Tiara's Law. And I am here on behalf of Bread and Roses
14 and Tiara Latrice Productions, LLC, and I am here for --
15 as a transgendered woman who has a felony 17 years ago.
16 I have been a transgendered woman for 27 years, which
17 means that my felony came ten years after my transition
18 occurred.

19 So I know that I have heard some
20 opposition that the point of this bill is to try to erase
21 my history or that I would like to change or get rid of
22 the things that have happened in the past, the mistakes,
23 the whatever has happened in the past. And that is
24 absolutely not the case, being that I've been a
25 transgendered woman this whole time. I just haven't been

1 able to utilize the name that I identify with. And so
2 that's why I'm sitting here with you here today.

3 During the Q tragedy this kind of -- the
4 whole thing evolved from the fact that there were
5 resources that I was not able to access or I didn't feel
6 comfortable accessing because my birth name does not
7 match who I appear to be every single day of my life. So
8 there were all types of issues. There were times that I
9 would have to make phone calls and get people to verify
10 my identity and those type of things, and these are just
11 basic things like cashing checks and paying bills and
12 going into a doctor's office and having your name called
13 and not having to be embarrassed by a previous name that
14 you don't even recognize anymore.

15 So this bill in essence would allow for
16 transgendered people to be able to have an identification
17 card, a name, that matches the identity that we live our
18 lives as. And I'm -- it's been mentioned -- it was
19 mentioned in opening, but changing my name would not
20 change my credit score. It wouldn't change my -- my
21 anything. It wouldn't change any school records. It
22 wouldn't change any Social Security number. It would not
23 change any of those things. As a matter of fact, all
24 those things would be attached to my Social Security
25 number, which would still be who I am, and everything

1 that I have done or everything that has happened in my
2 life would still remain there. I wish we could get rid
3 of the credit scores, right?

4 (Background laughing.)

5 But that just -- but that's just not the
6 way it works. That's not -- that's not what the name
7 change is. I literally just want to be able -- me and
8 all of these trans people that are here today, we just
9 want to be able to have a name on our identification card
10 that matches who we are so we don't have to continuously
11 be reminded of the person that we never felt comfortable
12 with in the first place. So for that reason I ask you to
13 vote yes, please.

14 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Thank you.
15 Whoever would like to go next.

16 ERIKA UNGER: Good evening, members of the
17 committee. My name is Erika Unger. I use she/her
18 pronouns, and I am a co-director of Bread and Roses Legal
19 Center. We are a trans and queer-led non-profit, and we
20 do a lot of low pay and slow pay and pro bono work as
21 well as victim advocacy. I was a public defender for
22 eight and a half years. I'm a criminal defense attorney
23 by trade. I have represented hundreds of folks who are
24 trans and have been incarcerated and many of whom have
25 had felony convictions. I have also represented people

1 through the name change process, both as counsel of
2 record and also in a pro se capacity as sort of
3 assistance behind the scenes.

4 And what I can tell you -- I'm really here
5 to tell you what the bill does and what it does not do.
6 This is, in fact, a very narrow modest change to the
7 current name change statute. And to the extent that we
8 are here thinking that there is going to be just this
9 onslaught of felons that have not previously went to go
10 change their names, the name change statute has allowed
11 for people with felony convictions to change their names
12 since 2010. So this is not new.

13 But what it does do is it makes it so
14 that -- and I think, Representative Soper, you may have
15 mentioned this with Representative Garcia. It makes it
16 so that a judge cannot say that someone's existence is
17 not good cause, and I think that that's important because
18 good cause is not defined. And so all that it does is it
19 says that all of the other requirements still exist. So
20 there is a general process that applies to people without
21 felony convictions. There is an additional process that
22 is required by people who have felony convictions. It's
23 all the prior requirements. It requires the finding of
24 good cause.

25 It also requires that the person applying

1 for the name change submit their fingerprints both to CBI
2 as well as the FBI and that the petition is filed within
3 90 days of that criminal history report. It requires
4 that the district attorney is notified from the state or
5 district where the felony conviction was -- is lodged,
6 and it also requires if there is a victim of that crime
7 that the district attorney then notify the victim of the
8 request. The court must also find that there is not --
9 the change is not for purposes of fraud. It's not to get
10 out of the consequences of a felony conviction. Those
11 are findings made by the court.

12 I would also note that the publication
13 statute, which is in the same article as the name change
14 statute, already allows and does not require publication
15 for -- if the name change is gender affirming. So this
16 is not -- this -- pieces of this are already present
17 within the name change statute, and I will tell you I --
18 I am not a transgender person, but I am someone who has
19 been both married and divorced. And you know what nobody
20 never asked me? Is how my alias would show up on an
21 NCIC.

22 So I think that we're more than capable of
23 doing this. We've been doing it for a long time. And
24 those -- the thing I would end with is that it's a
25 requirement that the alias -- that the person who is

1 seeking a name change submit their chosen name to NCIC --
2 or to the FBI and CBI who then puts it in the NCIC
3 system, and that remains. That is required prior to the
4 filing of the petition. So that remains with those
5 criminal justice agencies regardless of whether the
6 petition itself is granted. So in that way, while an
7 unintended consequence, law enforcement will actually end
8 up with more information as the result of passing this
9 law than without it. We would ask for an aye vote.

10 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Thank you.
11 Ms. Coleman-Jackson.

12 MJ COLEMAN-JACKSON: Sorry. Excuse me.
13 Good evening again, Chair and members of committee.
14 Ms. Coleman-Jackson. I'm on this bill. I come as
15 representation of the Colorado Social Legislative
16 Committee. I'm their executive committee chair this
17 year. This is my third year on the executive committee.
18 I also am a human rights consultant certified by the
19 United States Institute of Diplomacy.

20 I'm urging a yes vote on this bill, and
21 I'm going to speak from an area of experience. Have you
22 ever been asked things, What was your gender at birth?
23 You know what I mean, your current gender identification.
24 And then when you can't answer that correctly, they just
25 go right out -- they just go for the throat. And they go

1 straight up, Well, I'll tell you what, just tell me what
2 your genitalia is between your legs. And if you're in
3 jail, let me tell you, if you don't answer the question
4 the way they like it, they will answer that question for
5 you.

6 And the same thing happens in airports.
7 Have you ever been publicly groped in an airport?
8 Because I certainly have because I present myself as a
9 woman because the name on my ID -- which I don't look
10 like a Marcus. I ain't looked like a Marcus since the
11 day I was born. My aunt said right out the womb I was
12 one of the prettiest boys she had ever seen in her life.
13 And my father started calling me MJ from the beginning,
14 and that is my chosen name.

15 As far as -- and actually I'm going to
16 tell you my most recent experience being misgendered was
17 as early as 1:00 this afternoon by capitol security when
18 I walked into this building, and I was addressed
19 intentionally as "sir." People have also used my
20 government name as an insult to me as well.

21 You know what -- and I want to make sure I
22 watch my time because you all know I'm a little
23 long-winded. But you know what, here's the thing:
24 People like us are already treated a lot harsher when
25 paying their debt to society anyway. We're talking

1 24-hour lockdown in jails only because it's for our
2 safety when in all actuality they just don't want to do
3 their jobs and ensure our safety.

4 Now, here's the thing, is that this bill
5 is not going to solve all of the social aspects that
6 we -- that we endure, that we deal with on a daily basis,
7 but it will be a foundation. It will be a start because
8 it will pave the way for us to finally be accepted as the
9 equals in society that we equally contribute to. And to
10 that I will yield my time, and I'll expect any questions.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Okay. Thank you.
13 We'll go to our online witness, and then we'll see if
14 there are questions. Okay. Taylor Brown, please go
15 ahead.

16 TAYLOR BROWN: Thank you. My name is
17 Taylor Brown, and I'm the founder of the Black Sex
18 Workers of Colorado. I'm here today to testify in
19 support of House Bill 1071 or Tiara's Law. In my
20 capacity as the founder of Black Sex Workers of Colorado,
21 I recognized a dire need for community to step up and
22 support and protect trans individuals and sex workers in
23 the absence of state or police protection. Which you may
24 or may not know is that many trans people have been a sex
25 worker at some point in their life. And as we know,

1 people who share those identities are some of the most
2 vulnerable in our community. They experience higher
3 rates of violence, including death and suicide, higher
4 rates of criminalization, and higher rates of
5 stigmatization and discrimination.

6 Black Sex Workers of Colorado has helped
7 people who identify as a sex worker or trans and in many
8 cases people who identify as both obtain jobs, housing,
9 monetary support for bills, therapy, medical care, legal
10 support, and more. But we are a small team within a
11 small community of orgs that exist like ours, and the
12 work that we do comes with limitations. Making a
13 gender-affirming name change more accessible is
14 unfortunately one of those areas our ability to help is
15 limited, and that is why we appear in support of this
16 bill today.

17 Many of the people that my org interacts
18 with on a day-to-day basis face significant barriers to
19 being able to work and exist in life. Those barriers are
20 often foreign to those who have never had to exchange
21 money and/or goods for sexual services and for those who
22 are not and have never met anyone who is trans. We have
23 a chance today to listen to people from those communities
24 about what they need to be able to exist fully in life,
25 and a more accessible gender-affirming name change

1 process is one of those things.

2 As a society, we have nothing to lose by
3 recognizing the humanity of each and every one of us.
4 Unnecessarily maintaining barriers that force trans
5 individuals to carry their dead name is not an example of
6 recognizing one's humanity, especially when functionally
7 speaking, this legislative fix does not make it easier
8 for trans individuals to commit crimes or evade
9 background checks like some opponents of this bill will
10 surely suggest. Instead supporting this bill means that
11 you're helping orgs like ours do the good and necessary
12 work of affirming and supporting trans lives. And I
13 yield my time.

14 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Thank you.
15 Now we will see if there are questions for any members
16 from any members. Rep Soper.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SOPER: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chair.

19 My question is for Erika Unger. I wanted
20 to ask kind of a little bit of a takeoff question that I
21 asked the bill sponsor. I'm just trying to understand a
22 little bit more of certainly the challenges from an
23 attorney's perspective just to be able to kind of wrap my
24 head. I do find that -- I mean, it's quite persuasive
25 how you talked about in the publication element it

1 it's just as public as this hearing is.

2 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Thank you.
3 Members, I think out of respect for all the other
4 witnesses who want to speak to us I'm going to move us on
5 from this panel, but thank you all for testifying with us
6 this evening.

7 MJ COLEMAN-JACKSON: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Ms. Brown, thank you
9 for being online. All right. As noted, we're going to
10 alternate witnesses here. So we will now invite up a
11 panel of witnesses who signed up in the opposed position.
12 Christina Goeke. I'm sorry if I'm mispronouncing
13 anybody's name. Do we have Ellen Daehnick? Jessica
14 Fenske. Jessica Fenske if you're here. Rich Guggenheim.
15 Do we have Marla Fernandez?

16 All right. The next folks, Mr. Imballa,
17 if you could look out for folks who are online. These
18 witnesses are signed up online. Do we have Shannon
19 Johnson? All right. Also Rich Guggenheim also shows up
20 online, we could look for him now. Do we have Valerie
21 Leal, L-e-a-l? Okay. Do we have Erin Meschke? Okay.
22 And do we have Darcy Shoening? Okay. Great. We'll stop
23 there. We'll go to our witnesses in person first while
24 we get the folks connected online. Whoever would like to
25 start.

1 CHRISTINA GOEKE: I'll go. Hi guys. My
2 name is Christina Goeke. I'm a resident of Colorado
3 Springs. I'm also a cofounder of Rocky Mountain Women's
4 Network. I am here to oppose this bill. We shouldn't be
5 making it easier for felons to change their name. Names
6 matter. Allowing felons to legally change their name is
7 dangerous to the public. The public does not have access
8 to people's Social Security numbers, okay? So the best
9 we can do when sizing up a potential friend or love
10 interest or babysitter is to do a Google search or use a
11 website like TruthFinder, right? So if don't even have
12 the correct name of the person we are looking into, how
13 would we know if they were a sex offender, a pedophile,
14 or a murderer?

15 The proponents of this bill will say that
16 the crimes stay with the Social Security number of the
17 felon, right? How does that help the general public?
18 This bill would make it easier for predators to target
19 single moms, young women, and children. There's
20 absolutely no reason why we should be making it easier
21 for felons to hide their crimes. Does Colorado really
22 value the feelings of convicted felons more than women
23 and children, who will most certainly be put in more
24 danger by this bill? So I'm asking you guys to vote no
25 on this.

1 The person who this bill is being named
2 after, you know, they're an admitted former prostitute --

3 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Ms. Goeke, I'm
4 going to urge you to be --

5 CHRISTINA GOEKE: Are you going to impinge
6 on my free speech? First Amendment gives me right to --

7 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: I am going to urge you
8 to keep your testimony please to the bill. Do not get
9 into individual personalities.

10 CHRISTINA GOEKE: The bill is literally
11 named after him.

12 (Background booing.)

13 CHRISTINA GOEKE: Misgendering is not a
14 crime. You know what, I'm correctly sexing, correctly
15 sexing. You know, sex matters. Gender is nothing. It
16 means nothing.

17 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Ms. Goeke --

18 (Background booing.)

19 CHRISTINA GOEKE: Sex matters. It matters
20 in prisons. It matters in sports. It matters in my
21 bathroom.

22 (Background inaudible speaking.)

23 CHRISTINA GOEKE: Misgendering is nothing.
24 It means nothing. I correctly sex everybody.

25 (Background booing and inaudible speaking.)

1 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right.

2 CHRISTINA GOEKE: So the person this bill
3 is written after is literally an admitted former
4 prostitute and other previous charges --

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Inaudible) Tiara,
6 and I'm not going to allow that.

7 CHRISTINA GOEKE: He works with children.
8 He works with young boys --

9 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: The committee is going
10 to be in recess.

11 CHRISTINA GOEKE: -- who now -- they do
12 burlesque with.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HEROD: Nope. You gave her
14 too many warnings. It's not okay.

15 CHRISTINA GOEKE: You know what, this is
16 my time. I let them speak. I let them --

17 (Recess taken from 6:59:07 PM to 7:07:00 PM.)

18 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: The committee will
19 come back to order. Ma'am, it's your turn to testify.
20 Please go ahead.

21 ELLEN DAEHNICK: Can you hear me? Hi.
22 Thanks for the opportunity to talk to the committee
23 tonight. My name is Ellen Daehnick. I live in Denver,
24 and I'm here representing myself. I appreciate you being
25 willing to hear my testimony. I think that House Bill

1 bill.

2 Okay. All right. We will move to the
3 next panel. I have Anaya Robinson, Carrie Knott --
4 apologies if I'm saying the names incorrectly. Ava
5 Frickle, and Carter Cadena. Okay. I might continue to
6 call witnesses. Is there anyone online? Okay.
7 John Arcediano? Madeline Druno. Apologies. I'm going
8 to call until I get four. Is that okay?

9 (Background talking and laughing.)

10 VICE CHAIRWOMAN BACON: Madeline Druno?
11 Okay. Meredith McCanns? I have a Dustin last name --
12 okay. I'm going to keep calling -- one more. Hannah
13 Brodski. Okay. Thank you all. We'll go ahead and begin
14 with whoever wants to go first. Just state your name and
15 any organizations you choose to represent. Go ahead.

16 ANAYA ROBINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair
17 and committee members. I'm Anaya Robinson, the senior
18 policy strategist with the ACLU of Colorado here today in
19 support of House Bill 1017 (sic). I'm also a transgender
20 man. This bill is simple. It aligns the courts'
21 consideration of good cause in hearing about name changes
22 with our state statutory recognition and protection of
23 gender identity as a protected class.

24 We know that the data shows that access to
25 jobs, access to housing, access to healthcare are all

1 disproportionately impacted by the connection between our
2 gender identity, our gender expression, and our name.
3 Jobs, housing, healthcare are all things that we know,
4 based on data, significantly increase individual, family,
5 and community stability and significantly decrease
6 recidivism rates. But most importantly this bill
7 protects and uplifts the dignity and humanity of trans
8 Coloradoans, dignity and humanity that inherently exists
9 and are too often denied, blocked, and attempted to be
10 erased by the society in which we live.

11 It has been suggested that this bill also
12 does some things that it absolutely does not. It does
13 not allow an individual to hide or even distance
14 themselves from a felony record. It does not alleviate
15 the requirement that an individual with a felony submit
16 their name change to state and federal authorities as an
17 alias to be listed along with any previously used or
18 assumed names on their records. It does not change an
19 individual's Social Security number or fingerprints. It
20 simply allows individual to have legal verification of
21 the name that best represents who they are and allows
22 them to have greater access to safety when needing to
23 show identification for any purpose, safety that should
24 not be denied simply because of a person's history.

25 This bill does nothing to decrease the

1 safety of individuals, families, or communities. In
2 fact, it does the opposite of that. It creates safety
3 for more individuals, families, and communities. It
4 increases access to housing, healthcare, and employment,
5 and it keeps more trans people alive. As a
6 representative of the ACLU of Colorado, I ask you to vote
7 yes on House Bill 1071. And as a member of the trans
8 community, I ask you to vote yes on this bill. Thank
9 you.

10 VICE CHAIRWOMAN BACON: Thank you.
11 Whoever would like to go next.

12 JOHN ARCEDIANO: Good afternoon. Thank
13 you, Madam Representative. My name is John Arcediano. I
14 am a program and outreach manager for an organization out
15 of Colorado Springs, and I work very closely with Club Q
16 survivors. I myself am also a Club Q survivor of the
17 incident that took place on November 19th.

18 As somebody who works closely with Club Q
19 survivors, this bill would be imperative to help increase
20 the notability of people in the system having their
21 actual names out in the public, and we have found that
22 with -- with the Club Q survivors specifically there was
23 a huge influx of them not being able to get the resources
24 because of their lack of interest or knowledge of their
25 actual names. And so we just ask that this bill be

1 harm to our children. It makes children more vulnerable
2 and unsafe when we let people make lies saying who's
3 harming our kids. As my friend Posha likes to say, if
4 you want to fight predators, you look at your family
5 first.

6 This bill has -- the opposition has -- it
7 has nothing to do with name change. It is about
8 transphobia. And instead of focusing on the overwhelming
9 statistical evidence that sex abuse happens in the home,
10 it has nothing to do with name changes. Don't believe
11 them. And I urge you any time people come up and start
12 saying these lies, stop them. Because when we let them
13 just stand there, it puts more kids at harm. Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIRWOMAN BACON: Thank you. Okay.
15 Would you like to go, please? Just share your name and
16 any organization if you'd like to represent one.

17 CLAIRE SANNIER: Yeah. Hi. My name is
18 Claire Sannier. I'll be representing myself. Good
19 evening, committee members. I have been proud to live in
20 Denver for the last 11 years. I'm a proud woman. I'm a
21 proud lesbian. I'm a proud feminist. I'm a proud
22 anti-racist community activist. I feel perfectly neutral
23 about being a software engineer, and more relevantly I'm
24 proud to be trans. Trans people deserve our names.
25 Ultimately, with all the details pushed to the side,

1 that's what's in question with this legislation. Do you
2 believe or do you not believe that we deserve the basic
3 dignity of our own name? Your vote yes or no will give
4 us the answer.

5 This bill's opponents will have you
6 believe there's a safety issue here. This rhetorical
7 strategy should be very familiar to any feminist who has
8 watched the assault of abortion rights over the past
9 century. Misogynists imagine masses of parents deciding
10 to have late-term abortions on a whim and then use this
11 fantasy to frantically petition the legislators and
12 courts in the name of averting this hypothetical crisis.

13 Here in reality late-term abortions are a
14 minuscule fraction of abortions performed only in extreme
15 medical situations, and abortion access remains in
16 reality necessary life-saving healthcare. I expect
17 better analysis from so-called feminists and advocates
18 for women. Like anti-abortion misogynists, transphobes
19 have very active imaginations. One opposing witness, who
20 wasn't ejected for bigotry, spun a yarn about so-called
21 predators pretending to be trans women in order to evade
22 the law and the community.

23 This is a favorite story of transphobes
24 promoting bathroom bills and other hateful legislation
25 nationwide. This fever dream of the pretend trans

1 predator has no precedent, has never happened, and is
2 based on nothing but bigotry. It is always utterly clear
3 that these so-called feminists have never known a trans
4 person. What we are as trans people is not something
5 someone can simply pretend to be.

6 I also want to categorically reject the
7 dehumanization of felons. People with felony convictions
8 are full human beings who deserve love, care, and
9 respect, not to be dehumanized and used as political
10 cudgels in the ongoing culture wars. The way this bill's
11 opponents refer to felons as a class was to me
12 unacceptable.

13 All this said, there is a safety issue at
14 hand. Trans people who are unable to obtain legal name
15 changes are vastly less safe with vastly less access to
16 housing, healthcare, and employment. I was very luckily
17 to be able to change my name in Colorado, but it was
18 pretty difficult. I had to get my fingerprints taken. I
19 had to get a background check from the Colorado and
20 Federal Bureaus of Investigation. I had to file
21 paperwork with the Social Security Administration.
22 Nothing that married women who change their names have to
23 do.

24 I'm fortunate that I didn't have a felony
25 on my record. I don't even know how much more difficult

1 it would have been. At any rate, there's no risk of the
2 government forgetting my dead name despite there being no
3 reason for them to track me. There's no legitimate
4 reason, certainly not a safety reason, to make this
5 already onerous process more difficult. Tiara deserves
6 her name exactly as much as I deserved mine. Thank you.

7 VICE CHAIRWOMAN BACON: Thank you. Please
8 go ahead. Welcome back to the table.

9 JENNIFER IVERSON: Good evening. My name
10 is Jennifer Iverson. My pronouns are she/her. I am a
11 23-year resident of Douglas County and the proud mother
12 of two loving, beautiful transgender humans. My kids
13 unfortunately do not feel safe coming here today, and so
14 I came here so that their voices could be heard. And
15 from the display that happened, I'm glad that I did. I
16 fully support this bill.

17 First, I'd like to address concerns other
18 testimonies have brought up about name changes putting
19 their communities in danger. Fearmongering and
20 misconceptions only serve to perpetrate -- perpetuate --
21 excuse me -- discrimination and harm against transgender
22 individuals. I have never feared a transgender person.
23 They are not the group of people statistically likely to
24 commit sexual assault. It's crucial to base our policies
25 and decisions on facts and evidence rather than

1 care what's in the statute. What I care about is that --
2 I mean, a name, your name, is so fundamental to who you
3 are. And you get to have your name because that's you,
4 and that belongs to you. And if there are impediments,
5 we should get them out of the way so people can be who
6 they are, and that's it. I'm a yes. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Rep Herod and then
8 Madam Vice Chair.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HEROD: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair. You know, I -- I'm not going to apologize for
11 my colleagues because I don't believe they all deserve to
12 have that from me. But I do want to apologize to you on
13 behalf of this institution, Maya, for what you just
14 endured from one of my colleagues. It's wrong that
15 people should be verbally assaulted in this building
16 simply for being who they are and coming to testify. So
17 I honor you. I don't apologize for him, though. He
18 doesn't deserve that. He deserves whatever out there you
19 gave him. But I look forward to having a conversation
20 with you to get more details about what happened.

21 MJ, I heard your testimony as well.
22 Whatever happened outside with you being misgendered
23 walking into this building, I want to have a conversation
24 with you so that we can have a conversation with those
25 who need to understand what it's like to treat a black

1 woman with respect.

2 (Clapping.)

3 So I look forward to having that
4 conversation with you after committee as well to get more
5 information.

6 Tiara, you are brave, and you continue to
7 be. What you faced today was -- was violence that I'm
8 sure you face on a multitude of magnitudes, you know.
9 But you stood there bravely, and you continued to fight.

10 All of you all who are here tonight who
11 have felt so alone in so many places, who have felt this
12 building is not for you, who have felt these laws are not
13 for you, who have felt like you have been -- who you have
14 more opposition than you have support, know that is not
15 true. In Colorado we support you, and we affirm your
16 identities. Our bill sponsor also is brave in everything
17 she is enduring right now, everything. We see you.

18 I want you all to look around at each
19 other. We see you. But I want you all to look around at
20 each other. You all have a lot more support in this room
21 than you have opposition. The folks who continue to
22 harass you online, who make comments in passing, who
23 choose to be anonymous, you all have showed up and said,
24 Despite you, we will make the world better for everybody
25 like us and everyone who deserves to be looked at in the

1 eye and be treated with respect. That's commendable.

2 Your testimony and your being here
3 tonight, especially to Ms. Tiara, will go down in the
4 history of Colorado, in the history of our state. When
5 you have felt like you were being washed away or ignored
6 or ostracized, now in Colorado as we move forward, but
7 even just today with what you've done and how brave you
8 are to put your name on this bill, you are now going to
9 be in the history books of Colorado despite how many
10 people want to erase you. That's amazing. That's
11 amazing.

12 So today I'm proud to vote yes on this
13 bill. I hope my colleagues do the same. I look forward
14 to continuing to fight along side of my brave colleague
15 as she continues to endure what so many don't see but
16 continues to stand up and fight every single day. We are
17 with you all. We will continue to be with you all. This
18 building is for you. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Thank you. All right.
20 Madam Vice Chair.

21 VICE CHAIRWOMAN BACON: Well, thank you,
22 Representative Garcia, for bringing this bill forward.
23 Thank you to all of you who came to testify today, and
24 thank you all. I echo the sentiments on bravery.

25 I really wanted to kind of talk a little

1 bit about why it is that -- the days that I love this
2 country and why. And even though I know -- I may not
3 know your experiences, some of the pain that you may have
4 endured, I've experienced a little bit of my own just
5 being in this skin. And this just reminds me of a phrase
6 that I learned a long time ago, that "The journey is
7 never long when freedom is the destination." And so on
8 the one hand I want to acknowledge how long the journey
9 has been, but on the other I just want to acknowledge
10 what could be on the other side.

11 The reason why I kind of led with, you
12 know, there are days I have to be like, I love my
13 country. Jesus, I love my country to get through the
14 day. There are some things that I really lean on for
15 that, and I just feel like we heard kind of like a lot of
16 contradictions that I want to put down for now. So there
17 are some -- so my colleague says this all the time. It's
18 called the Department of Corrections, not the department
19 of once a felon always a felon, and you're thrown away.
20 And there's so many people who just want to invest in
21 that, and I have to question what their beliefs are.

22 I heard people question, quite frankly,
23 the diligence, if not skills, of law enforcement, judges,
24 the FBI, that people regularly advocate we need to invest
25 more in, but somehow today they're all ill-equipped and

1 are terrible at their jobs, you know. I heard people
2 saying, In fact, I have to put myself out there more just
3 to seek my name.

4 And quite honestly, not -- you know, not
5 to list all the things in constitution -- in the
6 constitution about due process and whatnot, but there's
7 also things in the constitution around equality. And
8 quite frankly, I'm concerned that we might have an equal
9 protection issue as an attorney. But I do think this law
10 conforms with the direction in which we want to go and
11 which we have named the -- we have named in statute
12 discrimination can occur based off of gender identity and
13 expression, in the workplace, and outside.

14 And so to note that we have to put this in
15 statute just to acknowledge where we have already put in
16 statute what it is that we find to be equal protection
17 behooves me, but I'm happy to vote on it today. The
18 notion that it depends on ZIP code is not what good
19 jurisprudence is. That's not what belief in equal
20 protection is, and so I can't imagine us advocating
21 saying, These are tenants of this country but we don't
22 believe in.

23 So even when it comes to speech, I think
24 there's one thing to be said about being able to express
25 an opinion. But for what it's worth, we don't allow

1 people to defame and harass and even yell fire in a
2 crowded room. And on behalf of this institution, I can
3 say I'm working on -- maybe people can bring their
4 opinions, but I do not allow those things and disrespect.
5 So that's why I kind of behaved the way that I did.

6 So lastly, I would just like to say again
7 just the deep gratitude in sharing your stories. I don't
8 know. I find that this is a question of my generation
9 where we are at in being able to see through, I guess,
10 kind of the fear and pain to receive people for who they
11 are. And I'm honored to be in a seat like this as a
12 member of this generation to move us forward and to lean
13 into the values that we say we so clearly believe in. I
14 cannot find anything rooted in legality or even logic
15 other than fear and hate as a grounds to not call for
16 equality.

17 And lastly, I would just say that there's
18 a real opportunity here for us as a community, as a
19 state, as a nation to be who we said we are and another
20 quote to commit to what we said on paper. So thank you
21 again for bringing this bill. I look forward to
22 supporting it.

23 CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Thank you. Members,
24 other comments? No? All right. Rep Garcia, thank you
25 for putting yourself in the middle of this whole thing,

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Deborah A. VanDemark, do hereby certify that I am a Professional Shorthand Reporter and Colorado Realtime Certified Reporter.

I further certify that the foregoing transcript constitutes a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability to hear and understand the audio recording.

I further certify that I am not related to, employed by, nor of counsel for any of the parties or attorneys herein, nor otherwise interested in the result of the within action.



Deborah A. VanDemark, RPR, CRCR