

## **Exhibit G**

### **House Judiciary Committee Speech**

My name is Rich Guggenheim. I am a member of the LGB community in Denver, Colorado. I want to offer my testimony in opposition to HB24-1071, also known as Tiara's Law. I would like to start with the true story of an individual named Duane Powell. Mr. Powell is a convicted felon and on record as a sex worker in the state of Florida. Mr. Powell later moved to Denver, Colorado and started his own business as a drag queen.

Drag is a form of art often associated with hyper sexualization and stereotyped portrayals of women, usually by men, as part of the gay night life. Mr. Powell decided to "transition" into being a woman and changed his name to Tiara Latrice Kelly- for whom this bill is named. Now we would assume that any reasonable person who knew of Mr. Powell's background as a sex worker and convicted felon would hopefully, and rightfully, want to keep an individual such as this away from children. However, because of the change in Mr. Powell's name and gender expression, the public is likely unaware of Mr. Powell's background. Consequently, Ms. Kelly is now running a child drag ring in Colorado Springs where children are commodified as sexual objects and sold as entertainment to paying adults who throw dollar bills at them in churches and burlesque houses. At monthly performances at the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, Vista Grande United Church of Christ, and the La Burla Bee Burlesque House adults, ignorant of Mr. Powell's past, have unknowingly given a sex worker and convicted felon access to their children.

While I believe every felon should be given the opportunity to fully integrate into society once they have made restitution, the fact is that Colorado has a 44% recidivism

rate for felons. What is even more concerning than the fact that this type of person has been given access to children is that this law would make it easier for felons to gain access to children, and more difficult for adults and law enforcement to obtain the information and have access to the tools they need to protect their communities. While individuals like Mr. Powell should be allowed to live their life freely; they should not be given a blank slate and access to children.

This law must be amended in a way that gives law enforcement and community members the tools and information they need to keep their communities and children safe for potential predators. Gay men and lesbian women have fought for decades against the false narrative that we are pedophiles and want to groom children. The passage of this bill will allow for sex offenders and felons to have easier access to children under the guise of LGBTQ inclusion and equality.

The consequences of passing this bill will lead to an increase of accusations of members of the LGBT community being pedophiles and will erode the support for LGBT rights and undermine the work LGB activists have spent decades fighting for. This bill will have unintended homophobic consequences and place too many children in harm's way while hampering the efforts of parents and law enforcement to keep them safe. For these reasons, I implore the members of this committee to vote against HB24-1071