



March 2026

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: AAUW SUPPORTS SB075--Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Activity Offenses

Dear Committee Members,

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. More than 700 community leaders are AAUW members in local branches around the state.

AAUW has led the fight for equity for women and girls, and we have made progress over the years. Yet, too many predators are still in our community, ruining the lives of women and young girls. SB075 adds new protections and penalties for at-risk adults. It also allows courts to consider if bond money came from criminal activity. SB075 will strengthen the law and place blame where it belongs, on the perpetrators, not the victims.

AAUW of Colorado strongly supports SB075 and urges your AYE vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

Hon. Su Ryden
AAUW Colorado Advocacy-Director

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American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Senate Judiciary

03/04/2026 01:30 PM

SB26-075 Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Activity Offenses

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

| Name, Position, Representing | Typed Text of Testimony |
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| John DiGirolamo For themselves | Human trafficking is a horrible crime and criminals target minors more than any other age group. Victims become more suicidal, more prone to drug use and more likely to have mental health issues. There is no downside with making the penalties stiffer. Colorado is among the top ten states for rates of human trafficking. At the same time, Colorado has some of the lowest sentencing ranges for those convicted of trafficking crimes. |
| Natasha Adler For Rose Adom Center | <p>Thank you, Chair and Members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB26-075.</p> <p>My name is Natasha Adler, and I serve as the Program Director of the Rose Adom Center, a family justice center serving survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence across Colorado. Many of the survivors we support experience overlapping victimization, including human trafficking. For them, the way our laws are written is not abstract – it directly impacts their safety, dignity, and access to justice.</p> <p>For too long, Colorado statute has used the term “child prostitution.” That phrase is not only outdated, it is inaccurate. A child cannot consent to commercial sexual exploitation. The existing language is vague and misaligned with what we know about trafficking dynamics. That lack of clarity creates space for traffickers and buyers to minimize their conduct and, at times, evade full accountability.</p> |

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| | <p>Language matters. The words embedded in our statutes shape how systems respond, how juries interpret harm, and how survivors understand their own experiences. Terms like “child prostitution” imply choice where none exists and subtly shift responsibility away from the adults who recruit, coerce, and profit. That framing reinforces stigma and compounds trauma. By modernizing statutory language to reflect commercial sexual exploitation, SB26-075 makes clear that children are victims “never offenders.</p> <p>This bill also strengthens sentencing provisions related to human trafficking and pimping offenses. It reinforces that these are not peripheral crimes, but deliberate acts of human exploitation. Clarifying and enhancing sentencing requirements affirms Colorado’s commitment to holding those who profit from exploitation fully accountable.</p> <p>Importantly, SB26-075 allows courts to consider whether funds used to post bond are derived from criminal activity. When traffickers can use proceeds from exploitation to secure release, the cycle of harm continues. Allowing judicial scrutiny of bond sources disrupts that pattern and gives survivors critical time to pursue safety.</p> <p>SB26-075 advances clarity, accountability, and survivor dignity. I respectfully urge your support and thank you for your commitment to strengthening Colorado’s response to gender-based violence.</p> |
| <p>Danielle Johnson Against Re-fined</p> | <p>Good afternoon Chair and members of the committee,</p> |

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| | <p>My name is Danielle Johnson and I serve with Re-fined, a Colorado nonprofit that supports women coming out of trafficking, exploitation, addiction, and trauma.</p> <p>For over a decade I have walked alongside women who were bought and sold in our communities. I have sat with survivors as they begin to rebuild their lives after years of exploitation.</p> <p>This bill is being framed as harm reduction, but from what we see working directly with survivors, it is far from it.</p> <p>Legalizing prostitution does not remove exploitation – it normalizes and expands the market for it. When demand increases, traffickers follow. The people who benefit most are buyers and traffickers, not the vulnerable individuals being sold.</p> <p>Many of the women we serve were first pulled into the commercial sex trade through trafficking, coercion, addiction, poverty, or abuse. When the system treats prostitution as simply a consensual marketplace, it becomes much harder to identify victims and intervene.</p> <p>Instead of protecting vulnerable people, this bill risks creating an environment where exploitation can continue with fewer consequences for those creating the demand.</p> <p>If we truly want harm reduction, we must focus on reducing demand, increasing survivor support, and holding exploiters accountable.</p> |
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| | <p>I respectfully urge the committee to oppose SB26-075 and continue working toward policies that protect vulnerable individuals rather than expanding the market that exploits them.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> |
| <p>Amber Swanson</p> <p>Against themselves</p> | <p>Although this bill claims to protect, it actually opens the door to more exploitation without protection for victims. I have previously worked for a Colorado based non profit fighting exploitation and many of our survivors have experienced being trafficked in prostitution against their will. Under this bill, they would lose agency and be more prone to exploitation.</p> |
| <p>Erin Nicholson</p> <p>Against themselves</p> | <p>I strongly oppose this bill!! What a disgrace to humanity. Legalizing prostitution is NOT harm reduction. It will only further victimize vulnerable individuals and make it so there is no consequence for buyers or traffickers. Additionally, it would increase the already high rates of trafficking in CO and make it nearly impossible for law enforcement to help. This would be absolutely detrimental to our state. I am fighting for the future and safety of my children and our state!</p> |
| <p>Andrea Black</p> <p>Against themselves</p> | <p>As a mother of small children in Colorado, this bill is incredibly alarming in a negative manner. Sex trafficking is already a significant issue in Colorado and this bill will increase sex trafficking for both children and adults because where there is money, there will be criminal activity and exploitation. Please, do not allow this bill to pass.</p> |
| <p>Jake Johnson</p> <p>Against themselves</p> | <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>The legalization of prostitution in Colorado is the last thing we need. Amidst the depravity being unveiled in the Epstein files, the audacity for this legislature to double down on the destruction of family values is truly a testament to just how far this state has fallen,</p> <p>My wife has been a full time anti-trafficking advocate for the past 12 years. I have walked alongside her and the survivors she has</p> |

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| | <p>served, and I can tell you that this "industry" is not one that we need to protect, but one we need to eliminate.</p> <p>Regulating the sexual exploitation of men and women to "protect" them was clearly a proposition put forth by someone with no experience dealing with this population. This will drastically increase the protections for manipulative pimps and seductive traffickers by giving them limitations to work within, that technically shield them from prosecution. Regardless of what is legal and what is not, the fallout is the same: generations of broken families, abused women (and men), drug addiction, overdose, homelessness and death.</p> <p>Have you seen women struggling to deal with the brokenness of sexual exploitation? I have.</p> <p>Have you taken in a child that a women lost rights to because of her drug addiction related to prostitution? I have.</p> <p>Have you seen the tears of the child who's mother died of an overdose because of this lifestyle? I have.</p> <p>This is not an issue to legislate from the sidelines. The fallout of prostitution is not legal consequence. It is the lives of Humans, who are being dehumanized and used for the consumption of depraved men and women. We need a return to common sense, and love for one another. We do not need more permission to destroy one another. Deep down, we all know that prostitution is wrong - trying to help people by legalizing their destruction is a complete and utter fallacy.</p> <p>Please, for the love of God stop the destruction of our state, the destruction of our families and the destruction of the indivial human. Do not pass this bill.</p> |
| <p>Danielle Johnson For</p> | <p>I apologize, I meant FOR SB26-075 Against 97!</p> |

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| <p>Re-fined</p> | <p>Support “ SB26-075</p> <p>Good afternoon Chair and members of the committee,</p> <p>My name is Danielle Johnson. I am a Certified Addictions Specialist, Registered Psychotherapist, and Certified Trainer with the Colorado Human Trafficking Council, and I work closely with survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation through the nonprofit Re-fined here in Colorado.</p> <p>For over a decade I have walked alongside women who were first exploited as children. I have heard their stories, and one thing is consistently clear: buyers create the demand that fuels human trafficking.</p> <p>When someone is willing to pay for sexual access to a child, that is not a gray area. That is exploitation.</p> <p>Laws like SB26-075 matter because they send a clear message about where accountability belongs. Children should never be treated as participants in commercial sexual activity. They are victims. The people who must be held accountable are the buyers and those who profit from their exploitation.</p> <p>If we are serious about combating trafficking, we must address the demand side of this market. Every buyer represents a signal to traffickers that there is money to be made exploiting vulnerable young people.</p> <p>Strengthening the language in our laws helps ensure that children are protected and that the individuals driving this exploitation are the ones facing consequences.</p> |
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| | <p>I respectfully urge you to support SB26-075 and continue strengthening Colorado’s commitment to protecting children from sexual exploitation.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> |
| <p>Amber Swanson For themselves</p> | <p>Please protect our children in the law and persecute traffickers to the fullest extent.</p> <p>My previous testimony is supposed to be for SB26-090 re prostitution but I submitted it to the wrong case.</p> |
| <p>Danielle Johnson For themselves</p> | <p>Good afternoon Chair and members of the committee,</p> <p>My name is Danielle Johnson. I am a Certified Addictions Specialist and psychotherapist, and I work with Re-fined, a Colorado nonprofit that supports women coming out of trafficking, exploitation, addiction, and crisis. I have spent over a decade working directly with survivors here in our state.</p> <p>I am in strong support of Colorado Senate Bill 26-075 because it is critical that our laws clearly hold traffickers accountable.</p> <p>Children cannot consent to commercial sexual activity. When a child is involved, it is exploitation and the responsibility belongs with the adults who traffic and exploit them.</p> <p>This bill strengthens the language in our statutes so that traffickers cannot hide behind loopholes or technical language when exploiting a child.</p> |

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| | <p>SB26-075 helps ensure that the focus of the law is where it should be – protecting children and holding those who traffic them fully accountable.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and your commitment to protecting vulnerable children in Colorado.</p> |
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