



March 2026

To: House Judiciary Committee
Re: AAUW Supports SB012—Compensable Losses for Tribal Members

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 members of AAUW branches around Colorado.

Colorado has made significant progress over the past few years in recognizing, and making long-overdue apologies for, the victimization of women and girls that continues to have a generational impact on our Native American community. It is well past time to honor American Indian cultures, especially in times of tragedy. SB012 expands the "Colorado Crime Victim Compensation Act" to allow tribal members to receive compensation for expenses, including travel, related to traditional Native American healing ceremonies and practices, in addition to existing provisions for funeral, burial, medical care, and mental health counseling.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports SB012 and requests your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Hon. Su Ryden
AAUW Colorado Advocacy Director

16699 E. Kentucky Ave., Aurora, CO 80017
303.898.5797 Suryden25@gmail.com

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.

House Judiciary

03/04/2026 01:30 PM

SB26-012 Compensable Losses for Tribal Members

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Daisy Bluestar For themselves	<p>My name is Daisy Bluestar of Ignacio Colorado. I am an enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member,</p> <p>I want to support SB26-12 Victims Compensation Bill. After reviewing this bill language as well as the others from the different states, I think it is critical to support families of Victims of Violent Crimes in this manner. On our reservation we have families who are not enrolled in the Southern Ute Tribe, but who are related directly to Southern Ute Tribal members. Some are parents of Tribal Members, some are married into the families and so on and so forth. Sometimes, these families stay on the reservation because of their ties to their relative. Unfortunately, they do not get the same support as Tribal members, due to them not being a Southern Ute Tribal Member themselves. I feel like this could be a resource to support them if anything happened to them or a loved one.</p> <p>Another point i'd like to make, is that I, myself, have not always grown up on the reservation, and I do know there are a lot of Tribal members who have not grown up on the reservation and will not go to the reservation if anything were to happen. Many of our people may end up requesting to stay in their community they currently reside in, even if there is a violent crime. This could benefit those relatives in that sense also.</p> <p>At one point our tribe did this for our own people. They gave out funds to help our people in these ways, to support them through their spiritual healing journey.</p> <p>As a member of the MMIR Taskforce, I recognize that this bill could be a resource for many relatives, especially in the Ute</p>

	<p>Mountain Ute Community. I speak this from experience. I have been a resource to assist when they have had struggles through violent crimes themselves. I believe that there is no reason not to assist in another resource because sometimes there is not enough to help get families through their healing process.</p> <p>Many times people don't know how or who to go to in times of need and sometimes they carry a huge load in hopes that someone can be there for them. This is a strong way to let the people know they are supported. There are many different families who live in Colorado who are from different tribes, and this could be beneficial to their journey.</p> <p>On a personal note, I was a victim of a violent crime myself and services like this helped me. Although it was not in Colorado. It was very comforting to know support like this was there for me and my family.</p> <p>Respectfully, Daisy Bluestar</p>
--	---



SOUTHERN UTE VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Est. 1986

Mr. Scott Feldt
DAV Chapter 7, Commander
DAV Colorado Department Commander


Re: SB 26-012, Compensable Losses for Tribal Member Judicial Hearing

Dear Mr. Feldt,

The Southern Ute Veterans Association (SUVA) totally support SB 26-012 in its entirety. As you are aware, the SUVA performs all activities identified in the summary of Legislation. This cost is absorbed by the SUVA and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

If possible, the SUVA would like to attend this important hearing. SB 26-012 would assist enrolled members of both Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Tribes as well as Urban Indians.

Respectfully Submitted,


Howard D. Richards Sr., Commander
Southern Ute Veterans Association

P.O. Box 1019
Ignacio, Colorado 81137



March 2026

TO: House Judiciary Committee

RE: UVC-United Veterans Coalition of Colorado
Supports SB26-012—Compensable Losses for Tribal Members

Dear Committee Members,

The UVC—United Veterans Coalition of Colorado was formed over 50 years ago, at the end of the Vietnam War, to present a united voice in addressing the needs and contributions of Veterans, active duty military and National Guard members, their families and survivors. Today, the UVC represents the interests of nearly 400,000 Veterans and their families across the state of Colorado.

Colorado has made significant progress over the past few years in recognizing, and making long-overdue apologies for, the historical wrongs that continue to have a generational impact on our Native American community. It is well past time to honor American Indian cultures, especially in times of tragedy. SB012 expands the "Colorado Crime Victim Compensation Act" to allow tribal members to receive compensation for expenses, including travel, related to traditional Native American healing ceremonies and practices, in addition to existing provisions for funeral, burial, medical care, and mental health counseling.

The UVC believes it is well past time to include our Native American community, especially our Native American Veterans, in this statute. For these reasons, the UVC strongly supports SB012 and requests your YES vote in committee and throughout the legislative process.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Kalkowski

President, United Veterans Coalition of Colorado

president@uvcoc.org

Su Ryden

Chair, UVC Legislative Committee

uvc.state.legislative@uvcoc.org