



March 2026

To: Senate Finance Committee

Re: AAUW SUPPORTS SB131--Sports Betting Protections

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.

Over the years, progress has been made in achieving economic security for women. Yet, hurdles remain, and now new hurdles are being created. The advent of online sports betting has attracted millions of newcomers to gambling, with the resulting financial losses that are threatening the well-being of those who gamble and their families.

SB131 adds important consumer protections around this industry, and helps strengthen our sports betting laws. AAUW of Colorado supports SB131 and requests your AYE vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Thank you for your consideration,

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

Hon. Su Ryden
AAUW of 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.

Bill SB26-131: Sports Betting Protections

Natalia Olsen to Katie.Ruedebusch

03/17/2026 10:34 AM

March 16, 2026

The Honorable Katie Ruedebusch
Colorado Senate

Dear Senator Ruedebusch:

We are seniors at Chatfield Senior High in Littleton, Colorado.

As the chair of the finance committee, we urge you to support SB26-131 because it would slow gambling habits, stop companies from scamming, and implement operational limits on betting apps. Because of Colorado's rising gambling addiction, something needs to be done, and with the passing of this bill, we would be taking a step in the right direction of putting an end to these careless practices.

There may be many economic benefits that stem from sports betting, as William J. Pascrell III provides an example in his article published by [IMGL](#): "Consider Buffalo Wild Wings, a popular sports bar chain that has embraced sports betting by offering customers a seamless betting experience. This move not only enhances the customer experience but also translates into increased revenues for the restaurant chain." Many areas will lose customers if the laws around sports betting change, however, we think these small losses are worth being eliminated due to the extreme benefits we will see from implementing this new bill.

This bill will slow down unhealthy gambling habits. Noelle Phillips states in an article published by [The Denver Post](#), "The number of people calling the state's problem gambling hotline has risen." Because credit card usage on sports-betting apps would be completely eliminated, people would not have as bad of gambling habits, causing a decrease in calls to this hotline. To continue, the bill will prohibit companies from being able to scam others. As stated in the [IDX](#), "If you register for a fraudulent site like this and add funds to your account, you will be prevented from collecting a payout if you "win," because the money will be gone." Oftentimes, people are lured into ideas that are too-good-to-be-true scenarios but still proceed to provide their information. This is causing many people to have information stolen, along with other issues, because they wanted to get extra money from betting. The addition of this bill will help to prevent situations like that. Section 4 mentions that people won't be able to operate 3rd party sites without a contract and close observation from someone more trustworthy. Last but not least, this bill will be effective because it will implement operational limits on betting activity. As SB26-131 states, "betting activities constitute a suspicious betting activity or are indicative of a gambling disorder." This bill would restrict the extreme targeting of individuals that display signs of gambling disorder, which would ultimately limit abusive practices and provide help to individuals that are addicted to sports-betting.

To conclude, we urge you to support the passing of this bill. We along with many others have watched close friends be affected by the debt and scams that come alongside unsafe sports betting. If you have any advice on other options with this topic, we would be more than happy to take suggestions. Thank you so much for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Madison Brown and Natalia Olsen



March 17, 2026

Members of the Committee,

My name is Britta Chou and I am the Director of Planning with Dominion Water & Sanitation District. I am writing today on behalf of Dominion Water & Sanitation District, a wholesale water and wastewater provider serving approximately 33,000 acres in northwest Douglas County. Dominion was created to deliver renewable water supplies and centralized wastewater to a region that is primarily reliant on non-renewable groundwater. In support of our district and our region's future, we are currently making some of the largest water and wastewater infrastructure investments in our district's history. fast-growing

We respectfully oppose Senate Bill 26-131, not because we question the legislature's intent to address gambling-related harms, but because this bill creates a real, measurable, and destabilizing loss of funding for Colorado water infrastructure funding that the state cannot replace.

When Colorado voters approved legal sports betting, they did so with a clear promise: that the revenue generated would be used to help fund the Colorado Water Plan. Since that time, sports betting proceeds have become a critical, dedicated source of funding for the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund, supporting grants and loans administered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board. These dollars do not sit on the sidelines, they are actively used by water providers across the state to design, build, and finance drinking water and wastewater projects that protect public health, environmental quality, and economic growth.

Our service area includes the fast-growing community of Sterling Ranch as well as older communities along the Sante Fe corridor. Bringing renewable water and centralized wastewater to this region is the difference between economic prosperity with stability and eventual ghost towns from an uncertain future. For districts like Dominion, serving similar fast-growing areas and building capital-intensive regional systems, this funding is not supplemental. It is foundational. Our projects are planned years in advance, financed through a careful balance of rates, debt, partnerships, and state assistance. The predictability of CWCB funding is what allows us to keep projects moving without shifting excessive costs onto local ratepayers.



SB26-131 disrupts that predictability.

The bill's own fiscal analysis shows that its restrictions on sports betting are expected to reduce revenue by millions of dollars each year, resulting in corresponding reductions to transfers into the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund. Of specific concern is on page five of the fiscal note, "Because the fiscal impact of the bill will depend on consumer responses to the sports betting regulations in the bill, the revenue estimate is uncertain and assessed as having significant bidirectional risk, tilted to the downside". We believe this means the nearly \$2.5 million loss in revenue in year one is incredibly optimistic and we should expect closer to what the sports betting providers have quoted: between \$10 and \$15 million in the first year alone.

Section 7 of the bill attempts to address this by stating that transfers to the Water Plan Implementation Cash Fund should not fall below prior-year levels, but only "to the extent the unexpended and unencumbered money in the sports betting fund permits." For water providers, that caveat is decisive. It means the protection is conditional, not guaranteed. If betting activity declines, as the bill intends, the fund may simply not permit the transfer. That is not stability; it is uncertainty.

And uncertainty is something water infrastructure cannot absorb.

Dominion is currently investing tens of millions of dollars in regional water and wastewater facilities, including the Chatfield Basin Water Reclamation Facility, which will replace aging systems, improve water quality, and support responsible growth in Douglas County. When state water funding is reduced, the impacts are immediate and tangible: projects are delayed, scopes are reduced, or costs are shifted directly to local customers. For growing communities, that means higher connection fees and higher rates for families and businesses who are already facing affordability pressures.

Critically, this bill arrives at a time when the State of Colorado is facing a constrained and highly competitive budget environment. Even under the best of circumstances, the General Fund is under pressure from K-12 education, healthcare, housing, transportation, and wildfire mitigation. In that context, it is simply not realistic to assume that the legislature can, or will, backfill tens of millions of dollars in lost water funding from the General Fund, now or in future years.

Once this dedicated revenue stream is reduced, it is far more likely that the loss will become permanent than replaced.



Water and wastewater infrastructure are not optional services. They are core public health systems. They enable housing, economic development, environmental protection, and resilience in the face of drought and climate variability. Yet SB26-131 asks water providers and their ratepayers to absorb the financial consequences of a policy choice entirely unrelated to water management.

That is not what voters intended when they approved of sports betting. And it is not a sustainable way to fund the state's water future.

For these reasons, Dominion Water & Sanitation District respectfully urges the Committee to oppose SB26-131 unless it is amended to fully and permanently hold water funding harmless, either by guaranteeing replacement revenue or by exempting Water Plan transfers from any fiscal impact of the bill.

Absent such protection, this legislation shifts real costs onto local communities at a moment when neither water providers nor the state budget can afford it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Senate Finance

03/17/2026 02:00 PM

SB26-131 Sports Betting Protections

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Virginia GEBHART For themselves	Addiction sells. We love to sell addiction in this country. Let's stop this cycle of selling addiction to sports betting which is destroying lives. Giant corporations are profiteering on the backs of people who can't afford it. This bill ends some of the worst, most egregious practices that trap young men into losing everything: their money, their family, their future. Please vote yes to pass restrictions against the worst, most egregious practices of this industry that is sucking money out of our communities.