

Senate Judiciary

03/16/2026 01:30 PM

HB26-1009 Colorado Mandatory Lethality Assessment Act

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Natasha Adler</p> <p>For</p> <p>Rose Aandom Center</p>	<p>Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.</p> <p>My name is Natasha Adler, and I serve as the Program Director of the Rose Aandom Center, where we walk alongside survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking every day. Throughout my career, I have supported survivors as they try to secure safety for themselves and their children—often during the most dangerous moments of their lives. As an advocate, my role is not only to provide safety planning and emotional support. My role is homicide prevention.</p> <p>In 2025, nearly one in five homicides in Colorado were related to domestic violence. These deaths are not random. They follow patterns, escalate over time, and when we intervene early, they are preventable.</p> <p>When law enforcement agencies in Colorado implement the Lethality Assessment, the results are sobering. In eight jurisdictions currently using the assessment, nearly half of survivors screened were identified as being in the “high danger” category meaning they face an elevated risk of being killed by their partner. Nearly 40 percent of those survivors</p>

	<p>requested to speak directly with a victim advocate when that connection was offered.</p> <p>These numbers represent people at a critical crossroads—individuals who may not yet recognize how quickly violence can escalate or who have been told the abuse is their fault, that it is not serious, or that there are no options available.</p> <p>The Lethality Assessment creates a structured moment to name the danger out loud. When a high-risk screen triggers a call to an advocate, we interrupt isolation and replace doubt with information and support.</p> <p>Making that advocate connection mandatory removes the burden from survivors to ask for help during a moment of crisis. Instead, the system reaches out first.</p> <p>Statewide implementation ensures safety does not depend on a zip code. Whether someone lives in a rural community or a major city, they receive the same opportunity for intervention.</p> <p>HB26-1009 builds a coordinated response to predictable violence—acting before a headline, before a vigil, and before another family loses someone they love.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and commitment to survivor safety.</p>
<p>Evie Hudak For Colorado PTA</p>	<p>Colorado PTA strongly supports this bill. A founding purpose of PTA is to promote safety for children and youth. PTA advocates for policies and laws that protect children from violence and violent behavior. One of the current goals of PTA is to recognize, reduce, and eliminate conditions that cause children and youth to be at risk. We believe that this bill will be very helpful, not only for preventing children and youth from being at risk of abuse, but also for preventing serious future mental health problems and/or</p>

	suicides of victims which can be the result of experiencing domestic violence in the home.
--	--