

Rosanne Jacobsen

920 Confidence Drive  
Longmont, CO 80504  
February 22, 2017

Representative Mike Foote  
Chairman  
House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs  
Colorado General Assembly

RE: Written Testimony  
HB17-1134, Colorado Politician Accountability Act

Dear Representative Foote:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my written testimony regarding HB17-1134.

I've got deep roots in Colorado and went to high school and college here in the 1970s. I spent my career working in the oil industry in Alaska and Texas, first as a geophysicist and then for many years as an attorney. I recently retired back to Colorado; my Mom still lives here and it's home.

I'm so surprised and disheartened to see what Colorado lawmaking has turned into while I was away.

This bill seeks to punish, and in a sense, criminalize, lawmaking. Under this bill, lawmakers who have acted on their moral beliefs would be subject to civil and criminal penalties – with no governmental immunity.

Please consider the slippery slope. If this bill passes, wouldn't it just be a matter of time before lawmakers who pass laws in other areas – say healthcare – could also be subject to civil and criminal penalties? Please think hard about whether the Committee should set this precedent.

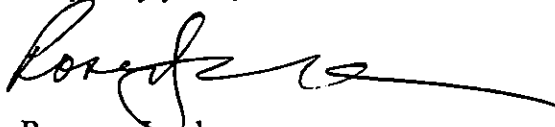
In addition, the bill would essentially reinstate and broaden the "SB90 Show Me Your Papers" law – which was repealed because it was not good law, for the many reasons others will testify to.

Please don't spend taxpayer money in an attempt to reinstate a failed law. Taxpayer money would also be spent in defending the law in the inevitable lawsuits to come. Judicial review can't be avoided by simply stating the bill isn't subject to it.

Even the title of the bill is puzzling: "Holding Colorado Government Accountable." That accountability already exists -- with the voters! Please let the current system continue to work. This bill would take away local control over local matters and law enforcement. Let local voters decide whether their lawmakers are making good law.

I urge you to oppose this bill, and thank you for considering my testimony.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosanne Jacobsen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rosanne Jacobsen  
907-229-2799