Exhibit B

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

House Bill 24-1071

TRANSCRIBED BY:
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(Recording started at 6:22:26 PM.)

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Okay. We'll proceed directly to the final bill of the evening. That is House Bill 1071. We'll give Rep Garcia a moment to get situated at the table.

(Background talking.)

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Rep Garcia, if you're ready to proceed, go ahead and make your opening comments about House Bill 1071.

REPRESENTATIVE GARCIA: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the committee. I am absolutely thrilled and honored to bring 1071 to this committee. I'm going to start with just reminding all of us that a right is not truly a right if some can't access it. So House Bill 24-1071, also known as Tiara's Law is a bill intended to ensure that everyone has access to a law that promotes humanity and dignity.

This bill will clarify what is currently ambiguous language leaving some of our community members from being able to access a law that allows people who have a felony on their records to petition for a name change for gender-affirming reasons under good cause as would a person with a felony on their record who seeks to change their name for good cause such as marriage. Nothing about the process on how to petition for a name

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change is going to change. The final determination still lies with the court. Their criminal record still follow them. This bill does not in any way allow someone to hide their criminal records. This bill, Tiara's Law, promotes humanity and dignity.

You'll hear stories about how the way this law is currently written limits access to critical support in cases of natural disasters or tragedies including the Club Q shooting because of being forced to use a legal name that they do not identify with. You'll hear about how something many of us take for granted, having a name that matches and affirms our gender identity, even those with felonies who affirm their identity by changing their last names when they get married, can be and is out of reach for others.

I want to also state that this bill is not about the merits of whether or not in general name change should be allowed for people with felonies. We know that this right already exists. What this bill is about, it's making sure that those who currently are removed from being able to access this right can.

As we continue with this committee hearing, I want to thank all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for engaging in respectful discourse by not using derogatory language or misgendering

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witnesses or using a witness's dead name, but rather referring to the witnesses as their stated names and gender pronouns. I sincerely hope that the witnesses signed up to also testify will follow suit and engage in respectful discourse and share their perspectives and opinions on this bill by not disparaging other members or our community or other witnesses.

This body is one that is charged with evaluating, analyzing, and creating law. This room is one where people should be able to come, share their stories, be who they are without fear of being attacked, without fear of being disparaged. And it is my request that all of us, whether we are sitting in this room or online, continue with the purposes that we're here for today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Rep Garcia. Appreciate your comments about the tenor we should aspire to and the way that we should and should not aim to have a discussion. And as Chair, I affirm and ratify your comments.

Members, are there questions of the sponsor? Rep Soper.

REPRESENTATIVE SOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Representative Garcia. I guess the question I have for you -- and I'm certainly always

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open to any change in law. That's for sure. But
something like the name -- the name change statute that's
already in play, I guess I'd like to understand a little
bit more about the problem. Is it that the district or
county court are not necessarily granting a name change
for good cause as it currently exists, or are there other
problems that are existing that I'm not understanding?

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Rep Garcia.

REPRESENTATIVE GARCIA: Thank you,

Mr. Chair.

Representative Soper, we will have
witnesses that will share with the committee their
particular experiences on why this is necessary. But
what I will just state broadly is that the ambiguity in
this bill under good cause -- because good cause is not
defined, it is difficult for many of our transgender
members to find attorneys to support them in this path
towards -- to achieving a name change that they desire.
And so by establishing that good cause does include
gender affirming, it will be easier for our transgender
community members to be able to state their case and find
attorneys who are willing to support them.

REPRESENTATIVE SOPER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Rep Soper, good for
now? Okay.
Members, other questions of the sponsor?

All right. We'll proceed to witnesses.

Members, we have a pretty good number of folks signed up
to speak on this bill, nearing 30. Given that, out of
respects for both sides, we will alternate. The sponsor
has indicated a preference for proponent witnesses to go
first. So we will do that. We'll call up one panel for,
one panel against, one panel for, one panel against. In
the event that we run out of folks on one side first,
we'll just sort of proceed until everyone has had a
chance to be heard. We have a mix of folks in person and
online.

We may have hybrid panels, if that's just
how the order sorts out. We'll keep to three minutes. I
will ask everybody to observe that strictly. You'll see
the red light blinking. We have to reserve the right
here to just kind of bring you to a stop point out of
fairness to all of the witnesses who want to be heard
this evening.

With that, we will invite up our first
panel of witnesses. And let's see. Mr. Imballa
(phonic), if you could please listen for names, and if
you see somebody connect online, I've got a couple of
things to juggle up here. I'll try to get in person
versus remote right. If we could start with Erika Unger,
Tiara Kelley, and Tiara (sic) Brown, and MJ Coleman-Jackson.

All right. Thank you all for being with us and waiting well into the evening. Whoever would like to start, let us know your name and if you're speaking in connection with any particular organizational affiliation, and please go ahead. Note about the microphones. There's a little tiny gray button set into the table. Press that, and when the light is green you're good to go.

TIARA KELLEY: Good evening. My name is Tiara Latrice Kelley, and I am the namesake of this bill, Tiara's Law. And I am here on behalf of Bread and Roses and Tiara Latrice Productions, LLC, and I am here for -- as a transgendered woman who has a felony 17 years ago. I have been a transgendered woman for 27 years, which means that my felony came ten years after my transition occurred.

So I know that I have heard some opposition that the point of this bill is to try to erase my history or that I would like to change or get rid of the things that have happened in the past, the mistakes, the whatever has happened in the past. And that is absolutely not the case, being that I've been a transgendered woman this whole time. I just haven't been
able to utilize the name that I identify with. And so that's why I'm sitting here with you here today.

During the Q tragedy this kind of -- the whole thing evolved from the fact that there were resources that I was not able to access or I didn't feel comfortable accessing because my birth name does not match who I appear to be every single day of my life. So there were all types of issues. There were times that I would have to make phone calls and get people to verify my identity and those type of things, and these are just basic things like cashing checks and paying bills and going into a doctor's office and having your name called and not having to be embarrassed by a previous name that you don't even recognize anymore.

So this bill in essence would allow for transgendered people to be able to have an identification card, a name, that matches the identity that we live our lives as. And I'm -- it's been mentioned -- it was mentioned in opening, but changing my name would not change my credit score. It wouldn't change my -- my anything. It wouldn't change any school records. It wouldn't change any Social Security number. It would not change any of those things. As a matter of fact, all those things would be attached to my Social Security number, which would still be who I am, and everything.
that I have done or everything that has happened in my
life would still remain there. I wish we could get rid
of the credit scores, right?

(Background laughing.)

But that just -- but that's just not the
way it works. That's not -- that's not what the name
change is. I literally just want to be able -- me and
all of these trans people that are here today, we just
want to be able to have a name on our identification card
that matches who we are so we don't have to continuously
be reminded of the person that we never felt comfortable
with in the first place. So for that reason I ask you to
vote yes, please.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Thank you.

Whoever would like to go next.

ERIKA UNGER: Good evening, members of the
committee. My name is Erika Unger. I use she/her
pronouns, and I am a co-director of Bread and Roses Legal
Center. We are a trans and queer-led non-profit, and we
do a lot of low pay and slow pay and pro bono work as
well as victim advocacy. I was a public defender for
eight and a half years. I'm a criminal defense attorney
by trade. I have represented hundreds of folks who are
trans and have been incarcerated and many of whom have
had felony convictions. I have also represented people
through the name change process, both as counsel of
record and also in a pro se capacity as sort of
assistance behind the scenes.

And what I can tell you -- I'm really here
to tell you what the bill does and what it does not do.
This is, in fact, a very narrow modest change to the
current name change statute. And to the extent that we
are here thinking that there is going to be just this
onslaught of felons that have not previously went to go
change their names, the name change statute has allowed
for people with felony convictions to change their names
since 2010. So this is not new.

But what it does do is it makes it so
that -- and I think, Representative Soper, you may have
mentioned this with Representative Garcia. It makes it
so that a judge cannot say that someone's existence is
not good cause, and I think that that's important because
good cause is not defined. And so all that it does is it
says that all of the other requirements still exist. So
there is a general process that applies to people without
felony convictions. There is an additional process that
is required by people who have felony convictions. It's
all the prior requirements. It requires the finding of
good cause.

It also requires that the person applying
for the name change submit their fingerprints both to CBI
as well as the FBI and that the petition is filed within
90 days of that criminal history report. It requires
that the district attorney is notified from the state or
district where the felony conviction was -- is lodged,
and it also requires if there is a victim of that crime
that the district attorney then notify the victim of the
request. The court must also find that there is not --
the change is not for purposes of fraud. It's not to get
out of the consequences of a felony conviction. Those
are findings made by the court.

I would also note that the publication
statute, which is in the same article as the name change
statute, already allows and does not require publication
for -- if the name change is gender affirming. So this
is not -- this -- pieces of this are already present
within the name change statute, and I will tell you I --
I am not a transgender person, but I am someone who has
been both married and divorced. And you know what nobody
never asked me? Is how my alias would show up on an
NCIC.

So I think that we're more than capable of
doing this. We've been doing it for a long time. And
those -- the thing I would end with is that it's a
requirement that the alias -- that the person who is

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seeking a name change submit their chosen name to NCIC -- 
or to the FBI and CBI who then puts it in the NCIC 
system, and that remains. That is required prior to the 
filming of the petition. So that remains with those 
criminal justice agencies regardless of whether the 
petition itself is granted. So in that way, while an 
unintended consequence, law enforcement will actually end 
up with more information as the result of passing this 
law than without it. We would ask for an aye vote.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Thank you.

Ms. Coleman-Jackson.

MJ COLEMAN-JACKSON: Sorry. Excuse me.

Good evening again, Chair and members of committee.

Ms. Coleman-Jackson. I'm on this bill. I come as 
representation of the Colorado Social Legislative 
Committee. I'm their executive committee chair this 
year. This is my third year on the executive committee.

I also am a human rights consultant certified by the 
United States Institute of Diplomacy.

I'm urging a yes vote on this bill, and 

I'm going to speak from an area of experience. Have you 
ever been asked things, What was your gender at birth? 
You know what I mean, your current gender identification. 
And then when you can't answer that correctly, they just 
go right out -- they just go for the throat. And they go

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straight up, Well, I'll tell you what, just tell me what
your genitalia is between your legs. And if you're in
jail, let me tell you, if you don't answer the question
the way they like it, they will answer that question for
you.

And the same thing happens in airports.

Have you ever been publicly groped in an airport?

Because I certainly have because I present myself as a
woman because the name on my ID -- which I don't look
like a Marcus. I ain't looked like a Marcus since the
day I was born. My aunt said right out the womb I was
one of the prettiest boys she had ever seen in her life.

And my father started calling me MJ from the beginning,
and that is my chosen name.

As far as -- and actually I'm going to
tell you my most recent experience being misgendered was
as early as 1:00 this afternoon by capitol security when
I walked into this building, and I was addressed
intentionally as "sir." People have also used my
government name as an insult to me as well.

You know what -- and I want to make sure I
watch my time because you all know I'm a little
long-winded. But you know what, here's the thing:

People like us are already treated a lot harsher when
paying their debt to society anyway. We're talking
24-hour lockdown in jails only because it's for our safety when in all actuality they just don't want to do their jobs and ensure our safety.

Now, here's the thing, is that this bill is not going to solve all of the social aspects that we -- that we endure, that we deal with on a daily basis, but it will be a foundation. It will be a start because it will pave the way for us to finally be accepted as the equals in society that we equally contribute to. And to that I will yield my time, and I'll expect any questions.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Okay. Thank you.

We'll go to our online witness, and then we'll see if there are questions. Okay. Taylor Brown, please go ahead.

TAYLOR BROWN: Thank you. My name is Taylor Brown, and I'm the founder of the Black Sex Workers of Colorado. I'm here today to testify in support of House Bill 1071 or Tiara's Law. In my capacity as the founder of Black Sex Workers of Colorado, I recognized a dire need for community to step up and support and protect trans individuals and sex workers in the absence of state or police protection. Which you may or may not know is that many trans people have been a sex worker at some point in their life. And as we know,
people who share those identities are some of the most vulnerable in our community. They experience higher rates of violence, including death and suicide, higher rates of criminalization, and higher rates of stigmatization and discrimination.

Black Sex Workers of Colorado has helped people who identify as a sex worker or trans and in many cases people who identify as both obtain jobs, housing, monetary support for bills, therapy, medical care, legal support, and more. But we are a small team within a small community of orgs that exist like ours, and the work that we do comes with limitations. Making a gender-affirming name change more accessible is unfortunately one of those areas our ability to help is limited, and that is why we appear in support of this bill today.

Many of the people that my org interacts with on a day-to-day basis face significant barriers to being able to work and exist in life. Those barriers are often foreign to those who have never had to exchange money and/or goods for sexual services and for those who are not and have never met anyone who is trans. We have a chance today to listen to people from those communities about what they need to be able to exist fully in life, and a more accessible gender-affirming name change.
process is one of those things.

As a society, we have nothing to lose by recognizing the humanity of each and every one of us. Unnecessarily maintaining barriers that force trans individuals to carry their dead name is not an example of recognizing one's humanity, especially when functionally speaking, this legislative fix does not make it easier for trans individuals to commit crimes or evade background checks like some opponents of this bill will surely suggest. Instead supporting this bill means that you're helping orgs like ours do the good and necessary work of affirming and supporting trans lives. And I yield my time.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Thank you. Now we will see if there are questions for any members from any members. Rep Soper.

REPRESENTATIVE SOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My question is for Erika Unger. I wanted to ask kind of a little bit of a takeoff question that I asked the bill sponsor. I'm just trying to understand a little bit more of certainly the challenges from an attorney's perspective just to be able to kind of wrap my head. I do find that -- I mean, it's quite persuasive how you talked about in the publication element it
it's just as public as this hearing is.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right. Thank you.

Members, I think out of respect for all the other
witnesses who want to speak to us I'm going to move us on
from this panel, but thank you all for testifying with us
this evening.

MJ COLEMAN-JACKSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Ms. Brown, thank you
for being online. All right. As noted, we're going to
alternate witnesses here. So we will now invite up a
panel of witnesses who signed up in the opposed position.
Christina Goeke. I'm sorry if I'm mispronouncing
anybody's name. Do we have Ellen Daehnick? Jessica
Do we have Marla Fernandez?

All right. The next folks, Mr. Imballa,
if you could look out for folks who are online. These
witnesses are signed up online. Do we have Shannon
Johnson? All right. Also Rich Guggenheim also shows up
online, we could look for him now. Do we have Valerie
Leal, L-e-a-l? Okay. Do we have Erin Meschke? Okay.
And do we have Darcy Shoening? Okay. Great. We'll stop
there. We'll go to our witnesses in person first while
we get the folks connected online. Whoever would like to
start.

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CHRISTINA GOEKE: I'll go. Hi guys. My name is Christina Goeke. I'm a resident of Colorado Springs. I'm also a cofounder of Rocky Mountain Women's Network. I am here to oppose this bill. We shouldn't be making it easier for felons to change their name. Names matter. Allowing felons to legally change their name is dangerous to the public. The public does not have access to people's Social Security numbers, okay? So the best we can do when sizing up a potential friend or love interest or babysitter is to do a Google search or use a website like TruthFinder, right? So if don't even have the correct name of the person we are looking into, how would we know if they were a sex offender, a pedophile, or a murderer?

The proponents of this bill will say that the crimes stay with the Social Security number of the felon, right? How does that help the general public? This bill would make it easier for predators to target single moms, young women, and children. There's absolutely no reason why we should be making it easier for felons to hide their crimes. Does Colorado really value the feelings of convicted felons more than women and children, who will most certainly be put in more danger by this bill? So I'm asking you guys to vote no on this.

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The person who this bill is being named after, you know, they're an admitted former prostitute --

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Ms. Goeke, I'm going to urge you to be --

CHRISTINA GOEKE: Are you going to impinge on my free speech? First Amendment gives me right to --

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: I am going to urge you to keep your testimony please to the bill. Do not get into individual personalities.

CHRISTINA GOEKE: The bill is literally named after him.

(Background booing.)

CHRISTINA GOEKE: Misgendering is not a crime. You know what, I'm correctly sexing, correctly sexing. You know, sex matters. Gender is nothing. It means nothing.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Ms. Goeke --

(Background booing.)

CHRISTINA GOEKE: Sex matters. It matters in prisons. It matters in sports. It matters in my bathroom.

(Background inaudible speaking.)

CHRISTINA GOEKE: Misgendering is nothing. It means nothing. I correctly sex everybody.

(Background booing and inaudible speaking.)
CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: All right.

CHRISTINA GOEKE: So the person this bill is written after is literally an admitted former prostitute and other previous charges --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Inaudible) Tiara, and I'm not going to allow that.

CHRISTINA GOEKE: He works with children.

He works with young boys --

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: The committee is going to be in recess.

CHRISTINA GOEKE: -- who now -- they do burlesque with.

REPRESENTATIVE HEROD: Nope. You gave her too many warnings. It's not okay.

CHRISTINA GOEKE: You know what, this is my time. I let them speak. I let them --

(Recess taken from 6:59:07 PM to 7:07:00 PM.)

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: The committee will come back to order. Ma'am, it's your turn to testify.

Please go ahead.

ELLEN DAEHNICK: Can you hear me? Hi. Thanks for the opportunity to talk to the committee tonight. My name is Ellen Daehnich. I live in Denver, and I'm here representing myself. I appreciate you being willing to hear my testimony. I think that House Bill Verbatim Court Reporting, LLC
Okay. All right. We will move to the next panel. I have Anaya Robinson, Carrie Knott -- apologies if I'm saying the names incorrectly. Ava Frickle, and Carter Cadena. Okay. I might continue to call witnesses. Is there anyone online? Okay. John Arcediano? Madeline Druno. Apologies. I'm going to call until I get four. Is that okay?

(Background talking and laughing.)

VICE CHAIRWOMAN BACON: Madeline Druno?

Okay. Meredith McCanns? I have a Dustin last name -- okay. I'm going to keep calling -- one more. Hannah Brodski. Okay. Thank you all. We'll go ahead and begin with whoever wants to go first. Just state your name and any organizations you choose to represent. Go ahead.

ANAYA ROBINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair and committee members. I'm Anaya Robinson, the senior policy strategist with the ACLU of Colorado here today in support of House Bill 1017 (sic). I'm also a transgender man. This bill is simple. It aligns the courts' consideration of good cause in hearing about name changes with our state statutory recognition and protection of gender identity as a protected class.

We know that the data shows that access to jobs, access to housing, access to healthcare are all
disproportionately impacted by the connection between our
gender identity, our gender expression, and our name.
Jobs, housing, healthcare are all things that we know,
based on data, significantly increase individual, family,
and community stability and significantly decrease
recidivism rates. But most importantly this bill
protects and uplifts the dignity and humanity of trans
Coloradoans, dignity and humanity that inherently exists
and are too often denied, blocked, and attempted to be
erased by the society in which we live.

It has been suggested that this bill also
does some things that it absolutely does not. It does
not allow an individual to hide or even distance
themselves from a felony record. It does not alleviate
the requirement that an individual with a felony submit
their name change to state and federal authorities as an
alias to be listed along with any previously used or
assumed names on their records. It does not change an
individual's Social Security number or fingerprints. It
simply allows individual to have legal verification of
the name that best represents who they are and allows
them to have greater access to safety when needing to
show identification for any purpose, safety that should
not be denied simply because of a person's history.

This bill does nothing to decrease the

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safety of individuals, families, or communities. In fact, it does the opposite of that. It creates safety for more individuals, families, and communities. It increases access to housing, healthcare, and employment, and it keeps more trans people alive. As a representative of the ACLU of Colorado, I ask you to vote yes on House Bill 1071. And as a member of the trans community, I ask you to vote yes on this bill. Thank you.

VICE CHAIRWOMAN BACON: Thank you.

Whoever would like to go next.

JOHN ARCEDIANO: Good afternoon. Thank you, Madam Representative. My name is John Arcediano. I am a program and outreach manager for an organization out of Colorado Springs, and I work very closely with Club Q survivors. I myself am also a Club Q survivor of the incident that took place on November 19th.

As somebody who works closely with Club Q survivors, this bill would be imperative to help increase the notability of people in the system having their actual names out in the public, and we have found that with -- with the Club Q survivors specifically there was a huge influx of them not being able to get the resources because of their lack of interest or knowledge of their actual names. And so we just ask that this bill be

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harm to our children. It makes children more vulnerable and unsafe when we let people make lies saying who's harming our kids. As my friend Posha likes to say, if you want to fight predators, you look at your family first.

This bill has -- the opposition has -- it has nothing to do with name change. It is about transphobia. And instead of focusing on the overwhelming statistical evidence that sex abuse happens in the home, it has nothing to do with name changes. Don't believe them. And I urge you any time people come up and start saying these lies, stop them. Because when we let them just stand there, it puts more kids at harm. Thank you.

VICE CHAIRWOMAN BACON: Thank you. Okay. Would you like to go, please? Just share your name and any organization if you'd like to represent one.

CLAIRE SANNIER: Yeah. Hi. My name is Claire Sannier. I'll be representing myself. Good evening, committee members. I have been proud to live in Denver for the last 11 years. I'm a proud woman. I'm a proud lesbian. I'm a proud feminist. I'm a proud anti-racist community activist. I feel perfectly neutral about being a software engineer, and more relevantly I'm proud to be trans. Trans people deserve our names. Ultimately, with all the details pushed to the side,
that's what's in question with this legislation. Do you believe or do you not believe that we deserve the basic dignity of our own name? Your vote yes or no will give us the answer.

This bill's opponents will have you believe there's a safety issue here. This rhetorical strategy should be very familiar to any feminist who has watched the assault of abortion rights over the past century. Misogynists imagine masses of parents deciding to have late-term abortions on a whim and then use this fantasy to frantically petition the legislators and courts in the name of averting this hypothetical crisis.

Here in reality late-term abortions are a minuscule fraction of abortions performed only in extreme medical situations, and abortion access remains in reality necessary life-saving healthcare. I expect better analysis from so-called feminists and advocates for women. Like anti-abortion misogynists, transphobes have very active imaginations. One opposing witness, who wasn't ejected for bigotry, spun a yarn about so-called predators pretending to be trans women in order to evade the law and the community.

This is a favorite story of transphobes promoting bathroom bills and other hateful legislation nationwide. This fever dream of the pretend trans
predator has no precedent, has never happened, and is based on nothing but bigotry. It is always utterly clear that these so-called feminists have never known a trans person. What we are as trans people is not something someone can simply pretend to be.

I also want to categorically reject the dehumanization of felons. People with felony convictions are full human beings who deserve love, care, and respect, not to be dehumanized and used as political cudgels in the ongoing culture wars. The way this bill's opponents refer to felons as a class was to me unacceptable.

All this said, there is a safety issue at hand. Trans people who are unable to obtain legal name changes are vastly less safe with vastly less access to housing, healthcare, and employment. I was very luckily to be able to change my name in Colorado, but it was pretty difficult. I had to get my fingerprints taken. I had to get a background check from the Colorado and Federal Bureaus of Investigation. I had to file paperwork with the Social Security Administration. Nothing that married women who change their names have to do.

I'm fortunate that I didn't have a felony on my record. I don't even know how much more difficult
it would have been. At any rate, there's no risk of the
government forgetting my dead name despite there being no
reason for them to track me. There's no legitimate
reason, certainly not a safety reason, to make this
already onerous process more difficult. Tiara deserves
her name exactly as much as I deserved mine. Thank you.

VICE CHAIRWOMAN BACON: Thank you. Please
go ahead. Welcome back to the table.

JENNIFER IVERSON: Good evening. My name
is Jennifer Iverson. My pronouns are she/her. I am a
23-year resident of Douglas County and the proud mother
of two loving, beautiful transgender humans. My kids
unfortunately do not feel safe coming here today, and so
I came here so that their voices could be heard. And
from the display that happened, I'm glad that I did. I
fully support this bill.

First, I'd like to address concerns other
testimonies have brought up about name changes putting
their communities in danger. Fearmongering and
misconceptions only serve to perpetrate -- perpetuate --
excuse me -- discrimination and harm against transgender
individuals. I have never feared a transgender person.
They are not the group of people statistically likely to
commit sexual assault. It's crucial to base our policies
and decisions on facts and evidence rather than

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care what's in the statute. What I care about is that --
I mean, a name, your name, is so fundamental to who you
are. And you get to have your name because that's you,
and that belongs to you. And if there are impediments,
we should get them out of the way so people can be who
they are, and that's it. I'm a yes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Rep Herod and then
Madam Vice Chair.

REPRESENTATIVE HEROD: Thank you,
Mr. Chair. You know, I -- I'm not going to apologize for
my colleagues because I don't believe they all deserve to
have that from me. But I do want to apologize to you on
behalf of this institution, Maya, for what you just
endured from one of my colleagues. It's wrong that
people should be verbally assaulted in this building
simply for being who they are and coming to testify. So
I honor you. I don't apologize for him, though. He
doesn't deserve that. He deserves whatever out there you
gave him. But I look forward to having a conversation
with you to get more details about what happened.

MJ, I heard your testimony as well.
Whatever happened outside with you being misgendered
walking into this building, I want to have a conversation
with you so that we can have a conversation with those
who need to understand what it's like to treat a black

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woman with respect.

(Clapping.)

So I look forward to having that conversation with you after committee as well to get more information.

Tiara, you are brave, and you continue to be. What you faced today was -- was violence that I'm sure you face on a multitude of magnitudes, you know. But you stood there bravely, and you continued to fight.

All of you all who are here tonight who have felt so alone in so many places, who have felt this building is not for you, who have felt these laws are not for you, who have felt like you have been -- who you have more opposition than you have support, know that is not true. In Colorado we support you, and we affirm your identities. Our bill sponsor also is brave in everything she is enduring right now, everything. We see you.

I want you all to look around at each other. We see you. But I want you all to look around at each other. You all have a lot more support in this room than you have opposition. The folks who continue to harass you online, who make comments in passing, who choose to be anonymous, you all have showed up and said, Despite you, we will make the world better for everybody like us and everyone who deserves to be looked at in the
eye and be treated with respect. That's commendable.

Your testimony and your being here
	onight, especially to Ms. Tiara, will go down in the

history of Colorado, in the history of our state. When

you have felt like you were being washed away or ignored

or ostracized, now in Colorado as we move forward, but

even just today with what you've done and how brave you

are to put your name on this bill, you are now going to

be in the history books of Colorado despite how many

people want to erase you. That's amazing. That's

amazing.

So today I'm proud to vote yes on this

bill. I hope my colleagues do the same. I look forward

to continuing to fight along side of my brave colleague

as she continues to endure what so many don't see but

continues to stand up and fight every single day. We are

with you all. We will continue to be with you all. This

building is for you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Thank you. All right.

Madam Vice Chair.

VICE CHAIRWOMAN BACON: Well, thank you,

Representative Garcia, for bringing this bill forward.

Thank you to all of you who came to testify today, and

thank you all. I echo the sentiments on bravery.

I really wanted to kind of talk a little
bit about why it is that -- the days that I love this
country and why. And even though I know -- I may not
know your experiences, some of the pain that you may have
endured, I've experienced a little bit of my own just
being in this skin. And this just reminds me of a phrase
that I learned a long time ago, that "The journey is
never long when freedom is the destination." And so on
the one hand I want to acknowledge how long the journey
has been, but on the other I just want to acknowledge
what could be on the other side.

The reason why I kind of led with, you
know, there are days I have to be like, I love my
country. Jesus, I love my country to get through the
day. There are some things that I really lean on for
that, and I just feel like we heard kind of like a lot of
contradictions that I want to put down for now. So there
are some -- so my colleague says this all the time. It's
called the Department of Corrections, not the department
of once a felon always a felon, and you're thrown away.
And there's so many people who just want to invest in
that, and I have to question what their beliefs are.

I heard people question, quite frankly,
the diligence, if not skills, of law enforcement, judges,
the FBI, that people regularly advocate we need to invest
more in, but somehow today they're all ill-equipped and

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are terrible at their jobs, you know. I heard people
saying, In fact, I have to put myself out there more just
to seek my name.

And quite honestly, not -- you know, not
to list all the things in constitution -- in the
constitution about due process and whatnot, but there's
also things in the constitution around equality. And
quite frankly, I'm concerned that we might have an equal
protection issue as an attorney. But I do think this law
conforms with the direction in which we want to go and
which we have named the -- we have named in statute
discrimination can occur based off of gender identity and
expression, in the workplace, and outside.

And so to note that we have to put this in
statute just to acknowledge where we have already put in
statute what it is that we find to be equal protection
behooves me, but I'm happy to vote on it today. The
notion that it depends on ZIP code is not what good
jurisprudence is. That's not what belief in equal
protection is, and so I can't imagine us advocating
saying, These are tenants of this country but we don't
believe in.

So even when it comes to speech, I think
there's one thing to be said about being able to express
an opinion. But for what it's worth, we don't allow

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people to defame and harass and even yell fire in a
crowded room. And on behalf of this institution, I can
say I'm working on -- maybe people can bring their
opinions, but I do not allow those things and disrespect.
So that's why I kind of behaved the way that I did.
So lastly, I would just like to say again
just the deep gratitude in sharing your stories. I don't
know. I find that this is a question of my generation
where we are at in being able to see through, I guess,
kind of the fear and pain to receive people for who they
are. And I'm honored to be in a seat like this as a
member of this generation to move us forward and to lean
into the values that we say we so clearly believe in. I
cannot find anything rooted in legality or even logic
other than fear and hate as a grounds to not call for
equality.
And lastly, I would just say that there's
a real opportunity here for us as a community, as a
state, as a nation to be who we said we are and another
quote to commit to what we said on paper. So thank you
again for bringing this bill. I look forward to
supporting it.

CHAIRMAN WEISSMAN: Thank you. Members,
other comments? No? All right. Rep Garcia, thank you
for putting yourself in the middle of this whole thing,

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Deborah A. VanDemark, do hereby certify that I am a Professional Shorthand Reporter and Colorado Realtime Certified Reporter.

I further certify that the foregoing transcript constitutes a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability to hear and understand the audio recording.

I further certify that I am not related to, employed by, nor of counsel for any of the parties or attorneys herein, nor otherwise interested in the result of the within action.

Deborah A. VanDemark, RPR, CRCR

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