Exhibit C

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
House Bill 24-1071

TRANSCRIBED BY:
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MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: The Senate Judiciary Committee will come back to order as we begin the hearing for House Bill 24-1071. As we get started on this hearing, I'd like to remind people, members of the public who are here to join us today, that it is at the discretion of the Chair whether or not to allow photography, filming, or video. As I stated at the outset of today's hearing, I will not be allowing filming and video in the committee room. And over the course of this hearing, I will also -- should witnesses feel so inclined to testify virtually without a camera, I certainly will allow that.

What we will not allow as we begin today's hearing is failing to treat one another with dignity and respect. We can disagree. That's fine. I welcome it. It's what we do here within this building, but we will not treat each other with a lack of decorum and a lack of respect. In the spirit of that, I will not -- I -- I ask of you, recognizing that the topic that we'll be taking up this afternoon -- you know, look, the bills that we have already considered in this hearing have included gun policy, biometric data, what happens when an individual is finding themselves in need or -- or a family is finding themselves in need of placing an individual under
a guardianship or a conservatorship. It's complicated
and weighty issues. And the last bill that we consider
today, name change to conform with gender identity, is
also an important and intense topic of discussion.

I -- I ask of you each to refrain from
clapping or booing or snapping. This is -- I don't know
if you can appreciate this, but this is a beautiful room,
recently renovated. But the acoustics in this room, not
great. And so in order for us to actually hear one
another and to listen to one another, I ask that you
refrain from -- from that and help us preserve that sense
of decorum so that we actually can proceed with the
witness portion of this hearing.

I'd like to begin also by thanking our
sergeants who help to make -- to ensure that everyone can
share their perspective, whether they are in support of
or in opposition to this policy -- to this policy that
we'll be hearing testimony on today. In the event that
there is a breach of that decorum, I will ask the
sergeants to remove you, okay? So can we all agree to
just treat each other with a little bit of decorum and
dignity and respect here today?

With that, I'd like to proceed forward and
welcome Senator Michaelson Jenet and Senator Priola to
tell us about House Bill 1071.
SENATOR MICHAELSON JENET: Thank you so much, Madam Chair. A right is not truly a right when someone cannot access it. House Bill 24-1071, 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 a good cause such as marriage.

Nothing about the process on how to petition for a name change is -- is different. The final determination still lies with the court. Their criminal records 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 will hear stories about how the way the law as currently written limits access to critical support in cases of natural disasters and 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 of others.

As we continue with this committee

hearing, I want to thank all of my colleagues on both
sides of the aisle to engage in respectful discourse, and
I'll elevate the words of our Chair by not engaging in
derogatory language or misgendering witnesses or using a
witness' dead name, but rather refers to the witnesses
with their stated names and gender pronouns. I sincerely
hope that the witnesses signed up will also engage in
respectful discourse and share their perspective and
opinion on this bill by not disparaging other members of
our community or other witnesses.

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Senator Michaelson

Jenet, I very much appreciate that addition and to our --
to the rules of decorum, courtesy, dignity, and respect.
And thank you for naming it, and I will ask that of our
committee as we proceed forward. Thank you.

Senator Priola.

SENATOR PRIOLA: Thank you, Madam Chair

and members of the committee. I know we're towards the
end of session, and there's really a lot going on, and
we're all very tired. I also am aware that there's a
long witness list. So in that spirit I'll keep my

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comments short because I think my cosponsor summed the bill up beautifully. This is a relatively short bill, three pages, no fiscal notes. So the motion's to the COW. You know, I support the policy, and it aligns with current statute in a number of ways. And it's simply about folks identifying as they may to get the same documents in the -- in the name that they prefer. So with that I'll open it up to any questions.

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Senator Priola.

Colleagues, do we have any questions for our senate sponsors before we enter the witness portion of the hearing?

Seeing none, thank you for introducing this bill for us to consider. I am going to -- as we now shift into the witness portion of this hearing, I will be calling folks up in alternating panels of proponents and then opponents. If you have been with us here since, I don't know, 1:30, you will see that we try our very best to allow for folks to have their time to share their perspectives with us.

And so for folks who will be testifying in person, there is a little black box with three lights. Green means go. Yellow means red and -- yellow means you have 30 seconds left. That was a test. You all were

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listening. And red is an invitation to conclude your
remarks. The same is, in fact, the case for folks who
will be participating remotely. Again, I have asked that
there be no filming or videography -- or videos --
filming videos or photos taken during the pendency of
this hearing.

With that, I will welcome our first panel
up. Thank you. If you have not yet signed up to testify
on this bill and, in fact, wish to do so, I encourage you
to visit our Sergeant at Arms table here in order to get
signed up on this panel. With that, I am going to call
our first panel of proponents and then after will call a
panel of opponents. I'll welcome Erika Unger, Tiara
Kelley, Dr. Olivia Compton, and Garrett Royer.

Welcome, Ms. Unger. If you can please
state your name and any organization you may represent
and proceed to testimony. You'll have three minutes.

ERIKA UNGER: Good evening, members of the
committee. My name is Erika Unger, and I'm the
codirector of Bread and Roses Legal Center. I represent
people seeking name changes, including folks with prior
felony convictions across our state. This bill proposes
a modest change to the current name change framework that
simply says that someone's gender identity, their
existence, satisfies the requirement of good cause. It
unwilling to take. This bill changes that. It makes it
clear someone's existence is good cause and makes name
changes accessible to some of the most vulnerable members
of our community, and I ask that you support. I'm also
happy to answer any questions, if there are any.

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you,

Ms. Unger. I appreciate your testimony. Next I'd like
to welcome Tiara Kelley. Welcome.

TIARA KELLEY: Hi. Is it on? Thank you
so much, Madam Chair. As you know, my name is Tiara
Kelley, and this bill is loosely named after me. I have
felonies in my past from survival work that I had to do
as a trans black woman growing up in Florida. I've
always been very open and honest about that. I've done
national news stories, national news television shows.
There have been documentaries. So it's never been a
secret. It's never been something that I've ever tried
to hide.

So the -- and I say that because I -- I've
heard the opposition say that the reason why we are
wanting this is so that we can hide from the things that
we've done in our past, which is impossible. As
Ms. Unger already said, that everything follows me, and
it will always follow me, and I'm fully aware of that. I
married my amazing husband eight years ago, and I took

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his last name eight years ago, which means that the name
that is on my identification right now is not the name
that I was born with. However, the opposition had zero
problems finding anything that they wanted to find on me,
and it would be the same exact thing if my first name was
changed.

So I think my -- my -- my whole message
today would be that this is more about affirming -- being
able to walk into a doctor's office and present your ID
and wait to be called back to the doctor's office and not
have to be dead named or have to have the whole building
know a name that you don't even identify with or
something as simple as being able to cash a paycheck
without an issue because the name on your ID doesn't
match the person that you're presenting as.

And this is actually how this bill came
into fruition, is during -- after Club Q -- I was a
producer at Club Q, and so there were many of the
benefits and help that was -- I was unable to access or
that I had difficulty accessing because of my name not
matching. There were times that I had to call up Bread
and Roses and have them identify who I am. Like it's --
it's very demeaning to have someone else have to identify
who you are. So I ask that for that reason that you will
vote yes on this bill.

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MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you so much for your testimony. Welcome.

DR. COMPTON: Is it on?

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: There is a little gray button on the neck. There you go.

DR. COMPTON: Can you hear me now?

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

DR. COMPTON: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is Olivia Compton, and I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 1071 as both a trans woman and a Ph.D. economist. So typically, we might not think of a name change as being related to economics or economic theory. So I'll try and give you a flavor for it.

So in ECON 101 we typically talk a lot about the role of property rights and the ability to exercise authority over not just property but also possession. And we also like to extend that to discuss the role of exercising prop -- rights over our bodily autonomy, the right to use whatever name we want, for instance.

And if we deny someone the right to use their preferred name or name that matches their gender identity, we're potentially subjecting them to bigotry and violence, which can cause some members of our
Christina Goeke. First things first, yep, let's turn your microphone on. There you go. Am I pronouncing your name correctly?

CHRISTINA GOEKE: Goeke, yes ma'am.

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Goeke? Okay. I'm trying. Welcome. Thank you for joining us. If you can please state your name, any organization you represent, and proceed to testimony. You'll have three minutes.

CHRISTINA GOEKE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

My name is Christina Goeke. I am a resident of Colorado Springs and cofounder of Rocky Mountain Women's Network. I am here to voice my opposition to HB24-1071, also known as Tiara's Law. I am blown away that felons were ever given the right to change their names, and I believe we should not be making it easier. A convicted felon should be aware that there are consequences to their actions. Otherwise, what is stopping people with no conscience from committing crimes?

Also, allowing felons to legally change their name is dangerous to the public. The public does not have access to people's Social Security numbers. The best we can do when sizing up a potential friend, a love interest, or babysitter is a Google search or use a website like TruthFinder. If we don't even have the correct name of the person we are looking into, how would
we know if they were a sex offender, pedophile, or murderer?

The proponents of this bill will say that the crimes stay with the Social Security number of the felon, but how does that help the general public? We do not give each other our Social Security numbers. We give each other our names. This bill would make it easier for predators to target single moms, young women, and children. There is no reason why we should be helping felons to make it easier to hide their crimes. Does Colorado value the feelings of convicted felons more than that of women and children who will most likely be put in more danger by this bill?

This law is named after Mr. Duane -- has given himself Tiara. Mr. Duane Powell took the name --

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: I'm sorry.

CHRISTINA GOEKE: -- Tiara Latrice to appropriate a female name and to impersonate women --

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Excuse me.

CHRISTINA GOEKE: -- while hiding his former crimes.

(No audio from 6:34:41 PM to 6:36:35 PM.)

ELLEN DAEHNICK: -- a bill, and I urge you all to vote against it. The name sounds appealing, Tiara's Law. It sounds sparkly. It sounds kind. It
1 sounds harmless, but that's a smokescreen. This bill's result will be violent criminals claiming a new gender identity solely to change their names, and judges won't be able to stop it. Currently, if a felon requests a name change, a judge can grant it if the judge determines that the felon has chose -- shown good cause to warrant the name change, but this bill removes a judge's discretion.

Instead, under this proposed law, any criminal, even a violent offender, can assert that he feels like he is a different gender, and that feeling is the one and only thing that in and of itself constitutes good cause. So the judge will be forced to grant the name change. This bill creates incentives for bad actors to claim a different gender so that they can change their names. There's no limit in the bill regarding the crimes the petitioner could have been convicted of.

For example, men convicted of sexually assaulting children can claim in bad faith to be women solely to be able to change their names, and judges will have to grant those name changes. If you think that won't happen, you're being naive. If there's anything we know about safeguarding, it's that you don't protect against the most likely case. You protect against the predators because bad guys look for any opening.

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I believe that should this bill pass, we will see a dramatic increase in people able to obtain jobs, able to obtain secure jobs, able to obtain secure housing, able to acquire transportation and other opportunities within the community that, like I said, many of us take for granted on a daily basis.

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you. Thank you for the clarification and thank you for that insight. That's helpful.

Seeing no further questions in panel from members of the committee, thank you again for sharing your perspectives with us as we -- as we consider this bill.

I'm going to call our next panel of opposition witnesses. Welcome -- let me see here. I will welcome Dr. Rich Guggenheim, Shannon Johnson, and anyone else who has not yet signed up in the audience or online. If you're online, just go ahead and raise your hand virtually, and we will acknowledge you. Come forward, and we will hear your testimony.

Dr. Guggenheim, welcome.

DR. GUGGENHEIM: Thank you, Senator Gonzales.

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: State your name, any organization you represent, and then proceed to
testimony. You'll have three minutes.

DR. GUGGENHEIM: My name is Dr. Rich Guggenheim. I'm a homosexual resident of Denver representing myself. I'd like to take a moment of your time to share with you a prominent piece of the gay and lesbian liberation movement from Stonewall. I want to tell you about the history of Mike -- Malcolm Michaels Jr. and Tony Rivera. Both were gay, black men, sex workers, drag queens, and convicted felons. Both were well-known in the gay community in the 1960s and '70s. Malcolm may be more familiar to you by his drag name Marsha P. Johnson. Marsha P. Johnson is also falsely identified today with a -- as a transgender woman. Malcolm was frequently seen with Tony Rivera, who went by the drag name Sylvia.

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: I'm sorry. I am going to -- again, Dr. Guggen- -- Dr. Guggenheim --

DR. GUGGENHEIM: Please continue.

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: -- I did ask at the onset of this hearing that we refrain from dead-naming or misgendering people. I welcome you to proceed forward with the rest of your comments should you wish to continue.

DR. GUGGENHEIM: I have not misgendered or dead-named anybody. These are historical facts, and both
of these people went by these --

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Your microphones is off. So I can't hear what you're saying. If you'd like to proceed, you have 1 minute and 41 seconds remaining. Please proceed.

DR. GUGGENHEIM: Both were heavy cocaine users. In fact, the false narrative that Marsha threw the first brick, yet Marsha never even admitted to even being at Stonewall and was instead with Sylvia, who was passed out from cocaine on a bench in Bryant Park. Marsha and Sylvia are also known for running the Star House, a home for gay runaway boys as young as 10. Star House is described as a child prostitution operation and shelter. The owner of the building made boy-on-boy porn. The children were sex trafficked on 42nd Street by Rivera and Michaels for Matty Lenao (phonetic) and his crew. So here we have another former felon, black, gay, man, sex worker, who identified as transgender and --

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Again, I'm sorry. Dr. Guggenheim, thank you for joining us and sharing your perspectives with us today.

DR. GUGGENHEIM: Thank you.

MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: That concludes the opposition witnesses. And Shannon Johnson?

I'm now going to shift over to our next
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.

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