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Exhibit C

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

TRANSCRIBED BY:
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1 (Recording started at 6:02:26 PM)

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

14 What we will not allow as we begin today's
15 hearing is failing to treat one another with dignity and
16 respect. We can disagree. That's fine. I welcome it.
17 It's what we do here within this building, but we will
18 not treat each other with a lack of decorum and a lack of
19 respect. In the spirit of that, I will not -- I -- I ask
20 of you, recognizing that the topic that we'll be taking
21 up this afternoon -- you know, look, the bills that we
22 have already considered in this hearing have included gun
23 policy, biometric data, what happens when an individual
24 is finding themselves in need or -- or a family is
25 finding themselves in need of placing an individual under

1 a guardianship or a conservatorship. It's complicated
2 and weighty issues. And the last bill that we consider
3 today, name change to conform with gender identity, is
4 also an important and intense topic of discussion.

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

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

23 With that, I'd like to proceed forward and
24 welcome Senator Michaelson Jenet and Senator Priola to
25 tell us about House Bill 1071.

1 SENATOR MICHAELSON JENET: Thank you so
2 much, Madam Chair. A right is not truly a right when
3 someone cannot access it. House Bill 24-1071, Tiara's
4 Law, is a bill intended to ensure that everyone has
5 access to a law that promotes humanity and dignity. This
6 bill will clarify what is currently ambiguous language,
7 leaving some of our community members from being able to
8 access a law that allows people who have a felony on
9 their records to petition for a name change for
10 gender-affirming reasons under good cause as would a
11 person with a felony on their record who seeks to change
12 their name for a good cause such as marriage.

13 Nothing about the process on how to
14 petition for a name change is -- is different. The final
15 determination still lies with the court. Their criminal
16 records still follow them. This bill does not in any way
17 allow someone to hide their criminal records. This bill,
18 Tiara's law, promotes humanity and dignity.

19 You will hear stories about how the way
20 the law as currently written limits access to critical
21 support in cases of natural disasters and tragedies,
22 including the Club Q shooting, because of being forced to
23 use a legal name that they do not identify with. You'll
24 hear about how something many of us take for granted,
25 having a name that matches and affirms our gender

1 identity, even those with felonies who affirm their
2 identity by changing their last names when they get
3 married, can be and is out of reach of others.

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

15 MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Senator Michaelson
16 Jenet, I very much appreciate that addition and to our --
17 to the rules of decorum, courtesy, dignity, and respect.
18 And thank you for naming it, and I will ask that of our
19 committee as we proceed forward. Thank you.

20 Senator Priola.

21 SENATOR PRIOLA: Thank you, Madam Chair
22 and members of the committee. I know we're towards the
23 end of session, and there's really a lot going on, and
24 we're all very tired. I also am aware that there's a
25 long witness list. So in that spirit I'll keep my

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

9 MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Senator
10 Priola.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 ERIKA UNGER: Good evening, members of the
19 committee. My name is Erika Unger, and I'm the
20 codirector of Bread and Roses Legal Center. I represent
21 people seeking name changes, including folks with prior
22 felony convictions across our state. This bill proposes
23 a modest change to the current name change framework that
24 simply says that someone's gender identity, their
25 existence, satisfies the requirement of good cause. It

1 unwilling to take. This bill changes that. It makes it
2 clear someone's existence is good cause and makes name
3 changes accessible to some of the most vulnerable members
4 of our community, and I ask that you support. I'm also
5 happy to answer any questions, if there are any.

6 MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you,
7 Ms. Unger. I appreciate your testimony. Next I'd like
8 to welcome Tiara Kelley. Welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 DR. COMPTON: Is it on?

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

6 DR. COMPTON: Can you hear me now?

7 MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

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

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

22 And if we deny someone the right to use
23 their preferred name or name that matches their gender
24 identity, we're potentially subjecting them to bigotry
25 and violence, which can cause some members of our

1 Christina Goeke. First things first, yep, let's turn
2 your microphone on. There you go. Am I pronouncing your
3 name correctly?

4 CHRISTINA GOEKE: Goeke, yes ma'am.

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

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

19 Also, allowing felons to legally change
20 their name is dangerous to the public. The public does
21 not have access to people's Social Security numbers. The
22 best we can do when sizing up a potential friend, a love
23 interest, or babysitter is a Google search or use a
24 website like TruthFinder. If we don't even have the
25 correct name of the person we are looking into, how would

1 we know if they were a sex offender, pedophile, or
2 murderer?

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

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

16 MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: I'm sorry.

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

19 MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: Excuse me.

20 CHRISTINA GOEKE: -- while hiding his
21 former crimes.

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

23 ELLEN DAEHNICK: -- a bill, and I urge you
24 all to vote against it. The name sounds appealing,
25 Tiara's Law. It sounds sparkly. It sounds kind. It

1 sounds harmless, but that's a smokescreen. This bill's
2 result will be violent criminals claiming a new gender
3 identity solely to change their names, and judges won't
4 be able to stop it. Currently, if a felon requests a
5 name change, a judge can grant it if the judge determines
6 that the felon has chose -- shown good cause to warrant
7 the name change, but this bill removes a judge's
8 discretion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 Dr. Guggenheim, welcome.

22 DR. GUGGENHEIM: Thank you, Senator
23 Gonzales.

24 MADAM CHAIR GONZALES: State your name,
25 any organization you represent, and then proceed to

1 testimony. You'll have three minutes.

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

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

18 DR. GUGGENHEIM: Please continue.

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

24 DR. GUGGENHEIM: I have not misgendered or
25 dead-named anybody. These are historical facts, and both

1 of these people went by these --

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

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

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

22 DR. GUGGENHEIM: Thank you.

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

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

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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