

We ask all the faithful and concerned Coloradans to ask Governor Polis to VETO HB26-1141. You may do so with this action alert here: <https://www.cocatholic.org/take-action/action-alerts>

Our lawmakers passed, HB26-1141 Discriminatory Practices in Public Schools, which presents a massive violation in freedom of speech and expression in K-12 and higher education – including silencing all students and staff for their well-founded and sincerely held beliefs on human sexuality, marriage, and the lives of preborn children.

This bill originally was drafted to include only public K-12 and higher education. It was amended on the House floor to require K-12 private schools also be subject to the public accommodation clause in the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act and therefore would be subject to the grievance procedures and other state sanctions for expressing their well-founded beliefs on human sexuality and marriage opposed to the state definition in the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. The bill went through a “strike below” (or re-write) in House appropriations where it lost its fiscal note and reference to both “public and private” were removed from the statutory language, instead citing “all educational institutions” under public accommodation. This suggests that all private and public K-12 and higher education schools are subject to the nondiscrimination provisions in this bill.

Additionally, the passed version of this bill added “pregnancy” and “parental status” under the harassment clause to the list of protected classes under Colorado’s anti-discrimination act. While this may be intended to protect pregnant mothers and fathers from discrimination, it actually impacts the ability of many nonprofits and individuals to exercise their First Amendment rights of speech and expression on issues related to abortion and options for women in crisis pregnancy that are not termination. This means, it would be considered harassment for students or organizations to promote life-affirming options to college-aged women in crisis pregnancy.

We are asking everyone to email Governor Polis and ask him to VETO the bill.

In practical terms, this bill would not permit student organizations at colleges or K-12 campuses to host speakers (such as Students for Life or Turning Point USA) or promote events about marriage as between one man and one woman or argue that gender and biological sex are the same thing and only two (male and female), which conform to one's biological sex assigned at birth, educate on the harms of abortion, or offer life affirming alternatives to abortion.

It also may restrict the ability of students at K-12 schools to participate in faith-based student clubs and organizations that profess a belief in human sexuality and marriage contrary to the state definition.

The bill also empowers the Colorado Civil Rights Commission (the same commission that sued Jack Phillips in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Civil Rights Commission* (2018)) to file charges against schools and individuals who violate this law.

Freedom of speech and expression are God-given rights protected by the First Amendment to the US Constitution, and HB26-1141 is woefully in violation of both. Please email Governor Polis and ask him to VETO this bill. We ask all faithful and concerned Coloradans to ask Governor Polis to veto HB26-1335. You can do so with this action alert here: <https://www.cocatholic.org/take-action/action-alerts>

Colorado lawmakers passed HB26-1335, which requires colleges and universities to provide onsite abortion pill access through their student center, pharmacy, or other campus location that provides access to medication. This is primarily a violation of the sanctity of life of pre-born children.

Colorado is already a national leader of abortion – including allowing abortion for all 40 weeks of pregnancy for any reason and requiring taxpayers to subsidize abortion by at least \$6 million annually – actual projects around \$12.5 million annually. Abortion clinics in Colorado has no regulatory oversight and “parental notification for minors” seeking abortion is being challenged by the abortion lobby in court.

By encouraging unregulated, taxpayer-funded abortion, Colorado has become an abortion tourism state at the cost of millions of preborn children's lives per year and millions of hurting mothers who carry the physical and mental impact of their abortion the rest of their lives.

HB26-1335 further increases the harms to women by forcing institutions of higher education to stockpile dangerous abortion-inducing drugs without oversight or even transparency on potential harms to the young women in distressing circumstances.

HB26-1335 corners young college-aged women in their first years of independence into one option that will leave them physically and psychologically harmed for the rest of their lives and dependent on the ever-growing abortion industry – many of whom, including Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, drafted this legislation for their own benefit.

Many amendments for HB26-1335 were rejected in committee, including to require training for providers to know the risks of the medication. An April 2025 study from insurance claims data by the Ethics and Public Policy Center show a serious adverse event rate of 10.93 percent—at least 22 times as high as the summary figure reported on the drug label. The nearly 11 percent of women who take mifepristone abortion drugs experience sepsis, infection, hemorrhaging, or another serious or life-threatening adverse event within 45 days.

Furthermore, the removal of safety protocols makes it easier for an unsupportive partner, abuser, or human trafficker to harm women, girls, and unborn children. There are now hundreds of publicly documented cases related to abortion pill abuse and coercion. The perpetrators used similar methods: secretly spiking food and drink with the crushed pill, sneakily swapping the pill for a different drug, or coercing the victim into taking the pill with or sometimes without her knowledge.

Data show that mifepristone and misoprostol, the drugs being forced onto colleges and universities by HB 1335, have extremely harmful impacts to women of all ages, but especially those who are young adults, experiencing independence from their parents' guidance for their first time.

Key Concerns with HB26-1335:

This legislation would:

Violate Sanctity of Life by requiring schools to provide abortion pills, whether on campus, or a prescription to get it from an off-site pharmacy.

Put our young women at health risk because abortion-inducing drugs have a high instance of adverse effects. A recent study by the Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC) shows nearly 11 percent of women who take the abortion pill mifepristone experience adverse effects, including sepsis, infection, and hemorrhaging within 45 days of taking the pill.[1]

Put our young women in psychological distress. A study by authors affiliated with Charlotte Lozier Institute described women feeling pressured into abortion medication and reported feelings of silence and isolation and a tension between relief and regret during and following drug-induced abortion.

Create health risks by allowing chemical abortion to be done in a dorm room any number of medical issues could arise without the proper setting to handle them.

Increase abuse by making it easier for an unsupportive partner, abuser, or human trafficker to harm women, girls, and unborn children, including secretly spiking food and drink with the crushed pill, sneakily swapping the pill for a different drug, or coercing the victim into taking the pill with or sometimes without her knowledge.

In effect, these provisions would violate Catholic Social Teaching and the rights of those who do not want to participate in providing abortion.

Take Action: Make Your Voice Heard

We encourage students, parents, educators, and all people of goodwill to respectfully ask Governor Polis to VETO 1335.

Ask the Governor to VETO to:

- Protect the first amendment
- Respect the sanctity of life
- Ensure that our young women are safe from the dangers of abortion pills and abusers

Together, we can advocate for policies that uphold the dignity of every child and ensure our young people in college are fully developed mentally, physically, and spiritually.