

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Melissa Ogburn, United Community Leaders of Colorado

Phone: 303-908-7129

Melissa@unitedcommunityleaders.org

Colorado Legislature Introduces “Trio of Bills” that Infringes on Citizens’ Medical Freedom and Unfairly Discriminates Against Life-Affirming Health Care Options, All While Families Are on Spring Break

Greenwood Village, Colorado – Today, United Community Leaders of Colorado (“UCLC”), a nonprofit registered with the intent to operate as a 501(c)(4), on behalf of its members **OPPOSES** a “trio of bills” introduced by the Colorado General Assembly on March 9, 2023. If enacted, the legislation will prevent Colorado citizens from accessing all available health care options, circumvent parental consent on life threatening procedures, and eliminate the freedom to discern personal and religious conscience. This is an attack on all women, health freedom, religious liberties, the rights of parents, and the First Amendment. Moreover, the bills are to be heard in committee while Denver-area schools are on Spring Break and community stakeholders as well as families are away, which schedule thwarts the real voice of Colorado.

UCLC urges the Colorado General Assembly to **vote NO on each of the three bills**, which are slated to have public testimony in two separate committee hearings held on Wednesday, March 15th. Upon adjournment of the senate, SB23-190 and SB23-188 will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and SB23-189 will be heard in the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. A **NO** vote by the majority of the Judiciary and Health and Human Services committee members on each of the bills would say to Coloradans that the General Assembly **values and trusts your ability to discern your and your families’ health care needs**. A **NO** vote by the majority of the Health and Human Services committee members would empower every woman to make her own choice and would guarantee continued resources for women of Colorado. Every Coloradan should be concerned that such important bills are being introduced and voted on while families are on spring break, an obvious attempt to circumvent the true voice of Colorado.

UCLC urges its members and Colorado citizens who support women, health care freedom, life-affirming care, and true choice to take immediate action to ensure their voices on the matter are heard by their legislators. The anti-health care bill is being rushed through the legislature. Having two separate hearings on the same day while many families are away from the state compromises a “fair and equitable” process for citizens to provide feedback. To learn more and in-depth details about the bills, immediate action steps to take, as well as how-to sign up for in-person, or remote testimony citizens can **go to our website: www.unitedcommunityleaders.org**.

A brief on the Anti-Health Freedom Bills:

1. SB23-190 Prohibiting Deceptive Practices at Anti-Abortion Centers

2. SB23-189 Increasing Access to Reproductive Health Care Services
3. SB23-188 Protecting Health Care Patients, Providers, and Assistors

The benign bill titles are deceptive and have alarming implications for Colorado citizens. The Colorado legislature is counting on Coloradans to be either ill-informed or mis-informed. In truth, if enacted, the Colorado General Assembly is forcing pregnancy health care choices into a restrictive anti-life decision-making process. For example, **SB23-190 would ban the Abortion Pill Reversal (APR)** removes the choice of a woman to change her mind to sustain her pregnancy after a medically induced abortion. The bill will also **ban advertising of pregnancy resource centers**, narrowing a woman's ability to assess available health care options and necessary resources. This is a vulgar attack on the dignity of women.

SB23-189 attempts to **circumvent Colorado's prohibition against public funding of abortion**. The bill will cause large employers, and individual/small group plans (in certain circumstances), to offer insurance plans to provide coverage for the cost of an abortion. 189 has language to **allow minors under the age of 19 years** to allow access to contraception and abortion referrals **without** parental consent.

If enacted, SB23-188 contains First Amendment violations as it concerns medical procedures that may violate individual discernment of conscious and contains no religious exemption.

Again, UCLC urge the members of the Senate Judiciary and Health and Human Services Committees to vote NO on SB23-190, SB23-189 and SB23-188.

About United Community Leaders of Colorado (UCLC)

United Community Leaders of Colorado is a non-profit corporation, organized under the laws of Colorado and submitted with intent to operate as a 501(c)(4) organization. Our mission is to build a culture of life, faith, family, and freedom in Colorado. We bring together like-minded leaders, stakeholders, and community members so that we can better coordinate, communicate, cooperate, collaborate and connect. Our goal is that by joining forces, we can be more effective in our local communities and in achieving our common goals for the benefit of the common good. You can visit our website to learn more about us here: www.unitedcommunityleaders.org.

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