



April 15, 2025

Dear Governor Polis,

United Community Leaders of Colorado is a coalition of concerned citizens, community leaders, and stakeholders committed to upholding the values of life, faith, family, and freedom in our great state. We are writing to respectfully urge you to veto SB25-183, titled “***Coverage for Pregnancy-Related Services.***” This bill mandates the allocation of at least \$1.5 million annually from public funds to cover elective abortions — a deeply troubling use of taxpayer resources that offends the good conscience of many Coloradans.

We stand firmly with the Catholic Bishops of Colorado and countless others who object to the use of public money to finance the deliberate termination of innocent human life. Instead, we advocate that these funds be used to support programs that empower expectant mothers — particularly those in crisis — to recognize their vital role in society as the bearers and nurturers of life. In fact, studies have shown that the overwhelming majority of women seeking abortions cite emotional distress, lack of support, or fear of the future as primary motivators. With appropriate psychological, medical, and social care — rooted in compassion and community — many of these women could be uplifted and supported in choosing life.

Regardless of one’s personal beliefs, the biological and medical consensus is clear: human life begins at conception. From that very moment, a unique and irreplaceable human being comes into existence — one who deserves protection, dignity, and the opportunity to live. We can debate the distribution of public funds across various material needs, but the value of human life itself — the very foundation of our society — is not negotiable. The defense of human life is not only a moral imperative, but the very reason for the existence of any just society. It is a duty that transcends politics.

SB25-183 not only disregards the intrinsic worth of unborn children, but also imposes an undue moral burden on those who hold sincere pro-life convictions. Forcing citizens to finance a procedure they believe to be the destruction of innocent life is a grave violation of conscience rights and a betrayal of the principles of freedom and pluralism that define our democracy. Respect for diversity of belief must include respect for deeply held moral and religious values — especially when they pertain to life and death.

Equally concerning is the fiscal justification offered in the bill’s fiscal note, which implies that abortion is preferable because it results in fewer long-term costs to the state. This line of

reasoning reduces the value of a human life to a mere budget calculation, suggesting that some lives are simply too burdensome to allow into the world. This is not only a morally indefensible position — it is a dangerous and dehumanizing precedent. The moment we assign a monetary value to the right to exist, we compromise the very soul of our society.

Furthermore, given Colorado's current economic challenges, it is fiscally irresponsible to promise \$1.5 million per year in taxpayer dollars for elective procedures that are deeply divisive and ethically contested. This funding could be far better invested in programs that strengthen families, support mental health, expand prenatal care, and provide alternatives to abortion — all of which contribute to a healthier and more compassionate society.

As Governor, you are entrusted with the responsibility of representing all Coloradans — including the unborn, who have no voice but whose right to life is fundamental. You also serve many constituents whose trust in their government is undermined when their deeply held convictions are ignored and when legislation forces them to act against their conscience.

For the sake of justice, fiscal prudence, and above all, respect for the sanctity of every human life — especially the most vulnerable — we urge you to veto SB25-183.

Sincerely,

UNITED COMMUNITY LEADERS OF  
COLORADO

*s/ Melissa Ogburn*

Melissa A. Ogburn  
President

United Community Leaders of Colorado writes on behalf of all of its members, asking you to veto SB25-183. In addition, the following members specifically asked that their name be used and affixed to this letter:

Steve McKenna  
Jeremiah Holland  
Melissa Ogburn  
Linda White  
Karen Pennington  
Bennett Rutledge  
Faye Barnhart

Monique Robles MD, MS  
Laura Felix  
Mandy Cox  
Kathleen Chandler  
Amity Wicks  
Clarissa A. Thomas

Francisco G. La Rosa, M.D., FCAP  
Paul Archer  
Diana Rodriguez  
Jordan Langdon  
Richard J. Keck  
Natalie Hattenbach  
Deacon Alan Rastrelli, MD