

To: Members of House Finance Committee

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. AAUW Public Policy Priorities underscore our mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research

AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protections for the civil rights of all individuals.

AAUW promotes the economic, social and physical well-being of all people.

AAUW supports efforts to improve racial, ethnic, and gender justice, and will work to eradicate intersectional bias as well. This includes creating a diverse culture of involvement, respect, inclusion, and connection where the richness of ideas, backgrounds and perspectives is fully appreciated and utilized.

Colorado AAUW supports Senate Bill 20-217. It is a large step forward in addressing the systemic racism that exists in our law enforcement system. The bill would make changes in how law enforcement operates in Colorado, particularly in communities of color. It calls for new transparency and new controls on police use of excessive force and sets objective standards for use of force while making an arrest.

It would require all officers to use body-worn cameras (by 2023), ban the use of chokeholds and limit when they are allowed to shoot a person who is running away. Police would also have to have objective justification for the stops, be required to intervene when seeing other officers using excessive force and could be sued as individuals for excessive force allegations. It requires officers working protests to announce if they plan to use tear gas and bans using projectiles indiscriminately.

There is more transparency through additional reporting requirements to the division for criminal justice and the attorney general and requirements and parameters for release of body-cam footage to the public, with release to victim's family at least 24 hours earlier.

The bill creates more accountability for peace officers by requiring the P.O.S.T. Board to permanently revoke, and not reissue or reinstate a peace officer's certification if he/she is found guilty of use of excessive force, unless he/she is exonerated by a court.

This is a bill whose time has come and **Colorado AAUW respectfully requests a YES vote on Senate Bill 217.**

Betty Ann Boyd
Colorado AAUW