

## **Please Support HB25-1168:**

### **Housing Justice for Victim-Survivors of Gender-Based Violence**

*Sponsored by Rep. Mandy Lindsay, Rep. Cecelia Espenosa, and Sen. Mike Weissman*

For Coloradans who experience gender-based violence (“GBV”), the pain and trauma that it causes often contributes to long-lasting economic consequences, including housing instability. To escape dangerous situations, many victim-survivors frequently face financial consequences, such as the loss of income and the cost of seeking new housing. Gender-based violence is often concurrent with financial abuse or economic coercion, and as a result, renters who experience GBV may temporarily fall behind on rent, struggle to access credit, or be isolated from support networks and services.

While Colorado law provides a few basic housing protections to help victim-survivors, it does not do nearly enough to protect people in these situations from facing evictions and entering the cycle of homelessness

#### **Victim-survivors deserve housing stability**

HB-1168 will bolster housing security by:

- Establishing meaningful enforcement of legal protections that allow victim-survivors to end leases early;
- Protecting a victim-survivor’s investment in a security deposit from damage that is caused by an abuser;
- Providing 30 days – increased from 10 days – for a victim-survivor to secure new housing and move following an eviction order;

#### **Victim-survivors deserve due process in court**

HB-1168 will expand access to the courts and uphold due process by:

- Expanding options for victim-survivors to repay late rent to avoid an eviction;
- Expanding the types of gender-based violence eligible for an eviction defense to align with existing protections for victim-survivor tenants;
- Expanding options for victim-survivors to verify their status to qualify for protections;
- Codifying processes for victim-survivors to re-access courts after a “default judgment”, and to extend court timelines, when delays are caused due to GBV;

#### **Victim-survivors deserve safety from harm**

HB-1168 will help protect the safety of victim-survivors by:

- Guaranteeing victim-survivors the ability to make reasonable safety adjustments to their unit, including changing the locks changed when needed;
- Protecting the confidentiality of victim-survivors by requiring personal service of evictions and suppressing eviction court records from public access;

## **Endorsing Organizations**

All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition  
Almost Home  
Bell Policy Center  
Colorado Children's Campaign  
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA)  
Colorado Fiscal Institute  
Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance  
Denver Metro Tenants Union  
East Colfax Community Collective  
Elephant Circle  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Healthier Colorado  
Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking  
League of Women Voters of Colorado  
Project Safeguard  
Rise Above Violence  
Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center  
Soul 2 Soul Sisters  
The Blue Bench  
The Initiative  
The Women's Foundation of Colorado  
Together CO Housing Justice Team  
United for a New Economy

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