



May 11, 2025

Governor Jared Polis  
Colorado Governor's Office  
200 E Colfax Ave  
Denver, CO 80203

Governor Polis,

We write to you today to urge you to veto [HB 25-1312](#), a bill passed by the Colorado General Assembly that currently awaits consideration on your desk. We represent Southern Baptists across the state of Colorado and across the nation, as one of us is the Executive Director of the Colorado Baptist Convention and the other is the President of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the national public policy arm of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In recent years, Colorado has consistently made national headlines not for achievements in respecting our fundamental freedoms but for fostering an environment that is hostile to people of faith, frequently dragging them to the courts in an effort to force them to undermine their deeply held beliefs. This is no reputation to boast about. Colorado has garnered a long list of legal losses in the courts for burdening religious exercise and infringing upon consciences. Respectfully, we urge you to learn from these mistakes.

We hold numerous grave concerns about the “Kelly Loving Act,” some of which are listed below:

- It compels speech by making it a discriminatory act if Coloradans do not use another person's “chosen name.”
- It mandates school policies be “inclusive of all reasons” a student might change their name. However, this imposes significant speech and religious exercise burdens on teachers and parents, should they dissent by holding biblical views of gender.
- It infringes on parental rights by promoting a rogue view of “gender expression” among innocent young children and requiring dress-coded public schools to allow children of either biological sex to choose between following the boys or girls dress code without parental consent or guidance. Parents should not have to choose between raising their children up in their faith or sending them to public schools.

The Legislative Declaration pertaining to the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act ironically states, “Colorado has a long history of supporting freedom of choice for Coloradans.” However, time

and again, a large portion of Coloradans have been denied the right to freely choose to adhere to biblical views on gender and sexuality. HB25-1312 is yet another affront to people of faith.

Should this bill become law, it would threaten the conscience rights of individuals, drive a wedge between parents and children, and endanger basic free speech rights for all. Such a piece of legislation will inevitably lead to conflict between church and state and result in disastrous consequences.

We urge you, Governor Polis, to veto this destructive, divisive bill that pits parents and government against each other to the detriment of children. Do not continue to allow the reputation of Colorado as a hostile place for families of faith to grow. Instead, veto this bill to protect precious first amendment rights to speech and free exercise in the Centennial State.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael A. Proud, Jr." in a cursive style.

Dr. Michael A Proud, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Colorado Baptist General Convention

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. Brent Leatherwood" in a cursive style.

F. Brent Leatherwood  
President  
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission  
Of the Southern Baptist Convention