

HOUSE BILL 26-1040

End Forced Sterilization of People with Disabilities

Sponsors: Rep. Meg Froelich, Sen. Lisa Cutter
Committee: House Health & Human Services
Full text: leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb26-1040



SUMMARY

Under current law, the government in Colorado can sterilize people with disabilities against their will. House Bill 26-1040 would end that practice and require informed consent.

BACKGROUND

- Forced sterilization is a relic of the eugenics movement. States enacted these laws to prevent people from “passing on” their disabilities.
- Colorado can sterilize people to protect their physical or mental health. That could be interpreted as sparing them from the stress of having children.
- We don’t know how often forced sterilizations take place. But we do know that some people with disabilities are pushed into these procedures without proper counseling about less restrictive alternatives.

HB 1040 would allow Coloradans to request and undergo sterilization, as they can now. But it would strip the state of the power to compel such profoundly personal decisions.

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