



Please Vote YES on HB20-1052

Concerning Restrictions on Making Public the Personal Information of Certain Employees at Risk of Threats Relating to the Administration of Human Services Programs

**Sponsors: Rep. Carver & Rep. Singer
Sen. Gardner & Sen. Lee**

Problem:

HB20-1052 addresses two problems:

- 1) Human services workers often experience threats related to their official duties. Workers' personal information is available on the internet and creates safety issues for the workers, their children, and their families, even while at home. County attorneys and contractors who are directly involved with human services programs can also be at risk. Several counties have collected data on threats to human services staff.

A report from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (2015) revealed that nearly 75 percent of the workplace assaults that occurred each year between 2011 and 2013 took place in a health care or social services setting. Most of these assaults were nonfatal but resulted in serious injury and time away from the job. The article is online at <https://www.socialworktoday.com/archive/092116p14.shtml>.

- 2) Threats against human services workers cause safety, morale, and job retention problems. Casey Family Programs Turnover and Retention (2017) <https://www.casey.org/turnover-costs-and-retention-strategies> demonstrates the above as it relates to child protection caseworkers.

Solution:

Under current law, it is unlawful for a person to make available on the internet personal information of a law enforcement official or child abuse or neglect caseworker, or their families if the dissemination of the personal information poses an imminent and serious threat to the official's or caseworker's safety or the safety of his or her family.

HB20-1052 replaces the definition of "caseworker" in statute with a new definition of "human services worker" to include state and county employees, employees of juvenile detention facilities who have contact with juveniles, as well as county attorneys and contractors who are engaged in duties relating to the following matters and who have contact with the public regarding these duties:

- Investigating allegations of child abuse or neglect;
- Investigating allegations of mistreatment of an at-risk adult;
- Establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support orders;
- Determining eligibility for public programs or investigating fraud.

Human services workers may submit written requests to a state or local government official to remove records that the official makes available on the internet if the dissemination of the personal information in the records poses an imminent and serious threat to their safety.

Contact:

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Specific County Supporters:

Adams County

Baca County

Conejos County

Douglas County

Grand County

Jefferson County

*Mesa County**

Weld County

Arapahoe County

Boulder County

Costilla County

El Paso County

Huerfano County

Lake County

Otero County

Young Williams

Archuleta County

Cheyenne County

*Denver County**

Elbert County

Jackson

Lincoln County

Routt County

* Indicates support is pending Board approval