

Testimony in Support of HB 1124

Hello and thank you for having me here today,

My name is Oscar Juarez I'm with Padres & Jovenes Unidos and I'm here to ask you for support and a yes vote on HB-1124

I've been living in the state of Colorado for 9 years. The reason my family and I made the decision to move to Colorado, was due to an anti-immigrant law SB 1070 in Arizona. During the time the bill was being introduced and signed by the governor, instead of me thinking about my HS graduation and next steps to come, we were selling all of our furniture and belongings, more like giving them away because right as I walked through the stage when I graduated, instead of celebrating with my family and friends, we got in our cars and fled from the fear of what police and immigration could do to my family and tear us apart.

Moving to Colorado made us feel welcome in a community where we look out for one another and love one another, but when we witness or something happens to us, we don't have the trust to call the police for help or because we witnessed something happening.

Last summer, I went out on a walk with a friend enjoying a warm summer night. As we were crossing the street, a car ran a red light and was headed head on towards my friend, I pushed her out of the way but the car hit me instead, as I was on the ground, people were about to call the police, but I immediately asked them all not to so out of instinct because of the fear and uncertainty of what's to happen not only to me, but also my family. I can tell you of so many times when our community trusted and called the police but instead faced deportation even though they were the victims of a crime. HB 1124 not only would create real trust but will unite all communities throughout the State of Colorado, which is why I'm here today, asking you to support HB-1124.

Thank you.