

SUBMITTED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Committee House Public Health Care & Human Services
Meeting Date 06/11/2020 Upon Adjournment

Registered	Bill Number	First Name	Last Name	Position on Bill	Representing	Text of Testimony
6/11/2020 10:22	SB20-221	Aubrey	Sweitzer	Against	Self	<p>My wife is Transgender, and we are in a same sex relationship. It makes me sad and scared knowing that this is still a thing! I am terrified of the thought of someone killing my wife, and getting away with it because she is trans. This law feels like it is giving people that are full of hate, and excuse to murder gay and trans people.</p>
6/11/2020 6:30	SB20-221	Laura	MacWaters	For	Self	<p>My name is Laura Michelle MacWaters. I am a facilitator for several Transgender Support groups. Please support SB20-221 banning gay and transgender panic legal defenses.</p> <p>Transgender and LGBTQI people and their loved ones are scared, not only of being killed or assaulted but also of their simply being LGBTQI used as a defense by their assailant or murderer. Our gender identity and sexual orientation is not to blame for others loss of control and violent reactions. There is no "panic", there is only rage and hate and You can not allow us, the victims, to be blamed for our being assaulted or murdered. All lives are, and must be, valued equally.</p> <p>I was here when Matthew Shepard was murdered in Laramie just up the road from my home in Fort Collins, and gay panic was used as a defense. I was here when Angie Zapata was murdered in Greeley, and trans panic was used as a defense. I have seen these and other cases affect the entire LGBTQI community. Angie and Matthew are still discussed today, they still haunt us, keep us in hiding, and they keep many of us still from living our lives and contributing fully to society. More than just their murders, we are affected by their killer's belief that they were justified, that we were worthless, that our mere existence could be the reason and the excuse for their violence towards us. We are affected by the murderers of Mathew Shepard and Angie Zapata being allowed by our courts to devalue us and use our very existence as part of their legal defenses. We also know that this defense is used in other cases but the records are sealed if acquitted. Our whole society is affected and diminished whenever any people are devalued and blamed for who they are instead of being judged for their actions.</p> <p>These are not the only such cases of gay and Trans panic defenses being used, and they are not the only cases where LGBTQI people have been diminished and devalued in court. I have seen our state travel so far since It was called the "Hate State" after Amendment 2. I have proudly told people new to our state that ours is now one of the "good" states where transgender and LGBTQI people have legal rights, protections, and the support of most all of the people here. Some of my friends have moved here precisely because of this. It is a stain on our state and all of us if we allow Gay and Trans panic defenses to continge.</p>

Please, vote for Sb20-221.