Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 1035: Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault and Stalking

My name is Cristina Aguilar. I am the Executive Director of the Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR). COLOR works to engage and empower the Latinx community to speak out about the policies that impact our community. Together we are working to support the ability of Latinas and our families to build a future for ourselves and to live our lives with dignity.

We encourage you to support House Bill 1035. This legislation would allow people who have survived sexual assault or stalking to break their leases in order to seek a safe place to live.

Survivors deserve to have policies that support them as they work to heal. People who have experienced violence should not feel like they have to stay in a place where they feel threatened or that reminds them of what they have been through and makes it that much harder to move forward.

Similar laws exist for survivors of domestic violence. We know that without these policies some people may feel compelled to stay in an abusive relationship rather than deal with the financial hardship of leaving. For someone who has been harmed by sexual assault or stalking, the need to get out of the place where they were hurt or scared is no less. It should not be made worse by putting people in a position where they can't get or feel safe because of economic barriers. This bill is a simple and yet powerful way to offer support.

We urge you to vote yes on House Bill 1035. Thank you.

Submitted by: Cristina Aguilar, Executive Director, Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR), 303-393-0382