

RESOLUTION NO. _____, SERIES OF 2024

A RESOLUTION FOR THE FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, FREMONT COUNTY, COLORADO, SUPPORTING THE FREMONT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND OTHER LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND PERSONNEL AND OPPOSING HB24-1460 "MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN RESPONSES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT MISCONDUCT"

WHEREAS, Colorado's 12,000 professional peace officers serve with a single purpose – to protect the health and safety of all Coloradans, including their families and yours; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's communities are served by highly qualified, highly trained officers ready to respond to violent crime and emergency situations wherever and whenever they arise; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's public safety professionals operate in a highly regulated, policy-driven environment with well-established employment protocols and administrative and licensing requirements; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has one of the highest levels of public safety oversight and data collection in the country and was the first state in the nation to eliminate qualified immunity for officers; and

WHEREAS, there are extensive guardrails in place to prevent and address police misconduct and hold bad actors accountable; and

WHEREAS, with only 20 days left in this year's legislative session, and without any engagement with public safety experts from any law enforcement organization in the state, the House of Representatives introduced HB24-1460, adding new rules targeting police who may or may not be "reasonably aware" of another officer's possible misconduct, appearing more punitive than solution-oriented, creating a new criminal charge for peace officers if they fail to report "unprofessional conduct" or "misconduct" of another officer; and

WHEREAS, this bill unnecessarily singles out one profession – law enforcement – for prosecution, marking the first time any occupation would be subject to criminal penalties for failing to report speculative violations of undefined conduct.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that although the original intent of this bill may have been to ensure those who commit crimes in the workplace are held accountable and that victims are protected from further harm, there are employment and criminal laws that already address these issues and provide civil and criminal penalties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the potential impacts of this bill are substantial and cannot be thoughtfully considered in the few days left before the end of the legislative session –

Coloradans deserve a fair and comprehensive analysis and debate weighing the gravity of criminalizing people for their failure to report allegations of workplace misconduct for one profession; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fremont County Commissioners strongly convey their opposition to HB 24-1460 and recommend that the Colorado General Assembly focus on the priorities and needs of the citizens of Colorado and urge them to defeat HB 24-1460.

Commissioner _____ moved adoption of the foregoing Resolution, seconded by Commissioner _____ and approved by roll call vote as follows:

Debbie Bell	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kevin Grantham	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dwayne McFall	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT

The Resolution was declared to be duly adopted.

Date: _____

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF FREMONT COUNTY

ATTEST:

By: _____
Chairman

By: _____
Clerk to the Board