

March 22, 2001

54 Legislative Council Resolution #4

University of Colorado
Student Union
54th Legislative Council

Sponsored by:	Zach Colbert	Senator, College of Architecture and Planning
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A Resolution
Resolution History

HB #01-1362, sponsored by State Representative Mark Paschall, of Arapahoe and State Senator Marilyn Musgrave of Weld, would deny any municipality in the State of Colorado providing domestic partner benefits to its employees future revenue from the cigarette tax. The bill also "Declares that domestic relationships among persons of the same sex are against the strong public policy of Colorado", "states that the regulation of the use of public moneys with respect to providing public employee benefits for persons in a domestic relationship is a matter statewide concern", "prohibits the use of state moneys to provide benefits to any domestic relationship partner of a state employee or an employee of a state-supported institution of higher education when the claim for benefits is based on the individual's status as a domestic relationship partner." The bill also amends the Colorado Revised Statutes, Article III to read: "State and local government moneys - use of public moneys for employee benefits for domestic relationships is a matter of statewide concern - prohibition on benefits - forfeiture of gross cigarette tax revenues by home rule entities offering employee benefits to persons in domestic relationships." Under this measure only Boulder and Denver would be directly affected, while all other municipalities in the state would be encouraged to never implement a domestic partners benefits system. The city of Boulder would suffer the loss of \$500,000 in annual revenue and Denver would lose \$2,500,000. Should the bill pass, Denver and Boulder's share of this tax revenue would be distributed to other cities and counties. Representative Paschall and Senator Musgrave introduced a bill earlier this year that would have denied recognition of same sex marriages by Colorado. Representative Paschall is quoted in defense of his bill that "If we open the door for all kinds of living conditions, we've opened up Pandora's Box" and "The [cigarette tax revenue] should be used to extend healthy behavioral alternatives, rather than on behaviors that are unhealthy."

HB#01-1362 reaches the CU community in three ways: 1) the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado is currently embroiled in a debate over adding sexual orientation to our non-discrimination clause, 2) HB#01-1362 will deny domestic partner benefits to employees of this institution, and 3) Students or potential students receiving or seeking these benefits may be denied access to higher education.

Resolution Summary

Whereas: The University of Colorado Student Union supports the rights all faculty's, students, and staff sexual identities.

Whereas: HB#01-1362 is one in a series of bills taking aim at the Queer community as of late that have arisen in the Colorado General Assembly.

Whereas: The issue of the civil rights of the Queer community is one of concern to students of the University of Colorado.

Whereas: Being the premiere institution of higher education in the state of Colorado, CU has an obligation to set an example by taking a stance against this attack on the Queer community.

Whereas: Mayor Will Toor of Boulder has taken an actively opposed position to HB#01-1362.

Whereas: Denying domestic partner benefits to individuals in this state will restrict access to higher education for some.

Whereas: The discrimination clause of the University of Colorado does not currently include sexual orientation, thus limiting access to higher education for some.

Whereas: The lack of sexual orientation in the non-discrimination clause creates a hostile climate of discomfort and unsafe environment.

THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the ^{sa}th Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Student Union, THAT:

Section 1: The University of Colorado Student Union calls on the Colorado General Assembly to fail HB#01-1362.

Section 2: A: The University of Colorado Student Union calls on the Colorado Student Association to actively oppose HB#01-1362.

B: The University of Colorado Student Union calls on all member schools of the Colorado Student Association to actively oppose HB#01-1362.

Section 3: The University of Colorado Student Union calls on the University of Colorado Board of Regents to include sexual orientation in the nondiscrimination clause.

Section 4: Copies of this resolution shall be sent to all members of the Colorado General Assembly, the Colorado Student Association, and all members of the University of Colorado Board of Regents

Section 5: This resolution takes effect upon passage.

3/22/01

Passed

10-2-3

4/5/01

Passed

7-1-3