

Manny Rutinel Voted For Legislation That Would Allow The State Of Colorado To Strip Parents Of Child Custody Rights If They Call Their Children By A Different Gender.

In April 2025, Rutinel Voted For A Bill That Would Have Expanded The Definition Of “Coercive Control” To Include “Deadnaming” And “Misgendering,” Which Can Be Used As Justification To Strip Parents Of Custody

In April, The Daily Signal Reported That The Colorado House Of Representatives Passed A Bill That Would Strip Parents Of Their Custody For ‘Misgendering’ Or ‘Deadnaming’ Their Kids. “The Colorado House of Representatives passed a bill Sunday that would remove kids from parents’ custody for behaviors like ‘misgendering’ and ‘deadnaming’ after Democrats cited the Southern Poverty Law Center to justify excluding parental rights groups from discussion on the bill.” (Tyler O’Neil, “CROSSED THE RUBICON: Colorado House Passes Bill Treating as Child Abuse Dissent From Transgender Orthodoxy,” [The Daily Signal](#), 4/7/25)

On April 6, 2025, Rutinel Voted In Favor Of The Initial House Version Of The Bill. ([HB25-1312](#), Colorado General Assembly, Passed: 36-20, [Rutinel Voted Yea](#), 4/6/25)

“According To The Bill Summary, HB 1312 Defines ‘Coercive Control’ As Including ‘Deadnaming, Misgendering, Or Threatening To Publish Material Related To An Individual’s Gender-Affirming Health Care Services.’” “According to the bill summary, HB 1312 defines “coercive control” as including “deadnaming, misgendering, or threatening to publish material related to an individual’s gender-affirming health care services.” “A court shall consider reports of coercive control when determining the allocation of parental responsibilities in accordance with the best interests of the child,” the summary adds. These provisions would effectively require parents to endorse gender ideology in order to maintain custody of their own children in a dispute. Gender ideology teaches that a person’s internal sense of gender overrides his or her biological sex. ‘Deadnaming’ involves referring to an individual who claims to be transgender by the name that person has rejected. ‘Misgendering’ involves referring to a person who claims to be transgender with the pronouns associated with their biological sex, rather than their preferred pronouns. “Gender-affirming health care” is a euphemism for experimental medical interventions designed to make a man appear female or vice versa. Supporters frame the bill as an attempt to prevent anti-transgender discrimination.” (Tyler O’Neil, “CROSSED THE RUBICON: Colorado House Passes Bill Treating as Child Abuse Dissent From Transgender Orthodoxy,” [The Daily Signal](#), 4/7/25)

Rep. Y. Zoakie, Cosponsor Of HB 1312 “Compared Parental Rights Groups To The Ku Klux Klan.” “The bill has garnered nationwide attention after Rep. Yara Zokaie, a Democrat, compared parental rights groups to the Ku Klux Klan in a hearing on the bill last week.” (Tyler O’Neil, “CROSSED THE RUBICON: Colorado House Passes Bill Treating as Child Abuse Dissent From Transgender Orthodoxy,” [The Daily Signal](#), 4/7/25)

Although The Original Text Of HB25-1312 “Mandated The Courts To Consider ‘Misgendering’ And ‘Deadnaming’ As Forms Of ‘Coercive Control’ In Child Custody Cases,” Such Language Was Stripped Out “Before Sending The Measure To The Governor.” “As introduced, however, HB 1312 sought to penalize ‘deadnaming’ and ‘misgendering’ as discriminatory actions and compelled ‘publishers’ to use a person’s ‘chosen name’ when asked. As initially drafted, refusing to comply would have served as evidence of the intent to discriminate. In its original form, the bill would also have mandated the courts to consider ‘misgendering’ and ‘deadnaming’ as forms of ‘coercive control’ in child custody cases. The bill’s sponsors ultimately removed both the custody-related language and provisions addressing ‘deadnaming’ and ‘misgendering’ before sending the measure to the governor.” (Marissa Ventrelli, “Colorado Democrats Reignite Debate Over Gender Identity In Child Custody Cases,” [Colorado Politics](#), 1/26/26)

A Lawsuit Filed By Several Organizations Argued Parts Of The Bill, “Violat[ed] The First Amendment By Compelling Speech.” “In May, several organizations filed a lawsuit seeking to block parts of the law, arguing it violates the First Amendment by compelling speech. The

plaintiffs claimed the statute punishes individuals who refuse to use a person's chosen name or pronouns and suppresses traditional views on sex and gender." (Marissa Ventrelli, "Colorado Democrats Reignite Debate Over Gender Identity In Child Custody Cases," [Colorado Politics](#), 1/26/26)

***The Denver Post Opinion* HEADLINE: "Colorado Democrats Cannot Force Employers To Use Someone's Pronouns. That's Compelling Speech And It's Illegal."** (Krista Kafer, "Colorado Democrats cannot force employers to use someone's pronouns. That's compelling speech and it's illegal," [The Denver Post](#), Opinion Column, 5/12/26)

HB25-1312 Made It So That "Coloradans Cannot Use Biologically Accurate Pronouns Or Titles In Their Interactions With Their Colleagues At Work." "Thanks to a bill passed last year, Coloradans cannot use biologically accurate pronouns or titles in their interactions with their colleagues at work. If they do not address customers and colleagues by their preferred pronouns, the business could run afoul of the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act as amended. To protect First Amendment rights, XX-XY Athletics, an athletic apparel company, and Born Again Used Books sued in federal court." (Krista Kafer, "Colorado Democrats cannot force employers to use someone's pronouns. That's compelling speech and it's illegal," [The Denver Post](#), Opinion Column, 5/12/26)