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April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To the Honorable Representatives of Castle Rock, CO in the Colorado Legislature,

I am the Lead Pastor of Ridgeline Community Church in the Founders neighborhood of Castle Rock, CO. I am writing because as the chief under shepherd of more than 300 of your constituents, I wanted to make sure that our voice was heard regarding HB25-1312.

This bill is an absolute, unequivocal, unmitigated abomination. In my mind, there are two issues at play here:

First, this bill furthers a destructive ideology that is at war with reality. There are only two genders; how someone may feel does not change that. To argue otherwise is to reject not only the obvious facts of reality, but also the extremely clear Word of God. This demonic charade must now end.

And second, this measure would bind the consciences of our fellow citizens like my Bible-believing congregants who affirm the Word of God, but could be punished for following their personal beliefs in not affirming the gender-confused insanity permeating our society. This is a clear violation of the freedom of speech, one of our nation's most hallowed tenets, the bedrock of a republic created by the worldview that all men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." This bill, cloaked under emotional cliches, is a violent tyranny against that God-given right to free speech.

As a Pastor, I must rise in the best way I can to oppose this, because I love God, and because I love my neighbors.

I am also a combat veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division, having served in Afghanistan from 2011-2012. I did not don our nation's uniform, travel to the other side of the planet away from my wife and children, and risk my life just to see the freedoms I fought for now sacrificed on the altar of a counter and false religions whose perversion demands the undermining of all we hold dear. This isn't just about differing perspectives



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on gender dysphoria; it's about our fundamental, God-given right to speak our minds, hearts, and consciences freely.

Therefore, if this bill becomes law, I will not comply with it in any way, shape or form. While I am no David or Nehemiah, I am bound to follow their mighty examples to stand against the Goliaths and Sanballats of my own day. If this opposition comes before me, I will stand against it – and then keep standing in every way I can, while exhorting others to do the same.

But I pray it does not come to that. I am blessed to lead a church that includes hundreds of faithful families from Douglas and Elbert counties who come from all backgrounds, colors, and neighborhoods. We need you and your colleagues who still believe in sanity and liberty to fight for us now. Stand for us! For I believe that in the years to come, those who do and do not will be remembered."

In Christ,

*Chris*

Chris Goble,

Lead Pastor, Ridgeline Community Church

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