



**Written Testimony of Michael Crews,
Policy Director, One Colorado**

Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Support for HB20-1010

Good Afternoon, Mr. Chair, and members of the State, Veterans, & Military Affairs committee. My name is Michael Crews, and I'm the Policy Director for One Colorado -- the state's leading advocacy organization for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Coloradans and their families. In addition to our work over the past 10 years advancing policy measures to help close the gap between legal and lived equality for LGBTQ Coloradans we have also invested time and resources towards our political and organizing work, simply because we know that representation matters.

And by reallocating incarcerated individuals in our state prisons back to their last home residence the Colorado Accurate Residence for Redistricting Act will make Colorado's once a decade redistricting process fairer. We know that people of color in Colorado are disproportionately incarcerated and therefore disproportionately affected by this unfair practice. Normed for population, Latinx people in Colorado are 2.5x more likely to be incarcerated than white people in the state, black people are 7x more likely and native and indigenous people are 5.7x more likely. This practice must be eliminated to shift the power back into balance.

Lastly, I'd like to reflect on how this practice currently shows up in Colorado. Usually, people that are incarcerated are housed in prisons that are far away from their permanent residence. They are clustered into facilities that are isolated in remote parts of the state. 56% of people incarcerated in Colorado are being housed in counties that only make up 1.32% of the state's population as a whole. Prisoners are being used to shift how political power is distributed in a way that is unjust and does not reflect our state's actual communities.

And with that I would like to thank Senator's Donovan and Gonzales for bringing forth this legislation and I ask for the committee's support of this bill. Thank you

Michael Crews
Policy Director
One Colorado