

For Immediate Release: March 16, 2015  
Contact for CCADV: Lydia Waligorski  
Office: 303-962-0930  
[lwaligorski@ccadv.org](mailto:lwaligorski@ccadv.org)

**HOUSEBILL 15-1263 MINIMIZES THE SERIOUS NATURE OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY ALLOWING FOR CERTAIN CONVICTIONS  
OF THIS CRIME TO BE SEALED FROM PUBLIC RECORD**

*Hearings on HB 15-1263 will draw large crowds to the Colorado State Capitol on Wednesday*

**Denver, CO** – The Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) joins other victim rights advocates to oppose HB 15-1263 (Title: Concerning Matters Related to Sealing Public Records for Certain Criminal Offenses, and, in Connection Therewith, Prohibiting Sealing a Second or Subsequent Municipal Court Domestic Violence Conviction and Allowing Sealing First-Offense State Court Misdemeanors if the Offender has not been Convicted of Another Offense for Five Years and the District Attorney Does Not Object).

CCADV warns that this bill minimizes the crime of domestic violence because, while some convictions are exempted from this bill, such as misdemeanor traffic crimes, child abuse, crimes against an at-risk adult, and unlawful sexual contact, domestic violence convictions are not among these exceptions. Additionally, the bill does not allow for the sealing of certain crimes against animals or fish and wildlife offenses. By prohibiting the sealing of these enumerated offenses, but allowing for domestic violence convictions to be sealed from public records, victims, offenders, and citizens are given the message that domestic violence is less serious than these other, un-sealable crimes.

Says CCADV Public Policy Director, Lydia Waligorski, “The proposed law is insulting and potentially harmful to domestic violence survivors. Securing a domestic violence conviction can be a long and arduous event for victims, and to allow for the sealing of DV convictions sends the message loud and clear to victims that the risks of participating in a trial may not be worth the outcomes.”

Proponents of the bill argue that people who make one mistake and then turn their life around and become law-abiding citizens should be able to seal their record if they meet requirements set forth in the bill. This, in turn, promotes economic justice by helping people obtain housing and employment by providing offenders to seal the conviction.

But, says Waligorski, “domestic violence has long term financial ramifications for victims including job loss and homelessness, and we believe more efforts could be made to secure economic justice for crime victims.”

CCADV will join other opponents to HB 15-1263 at a hearing in front of the House Local Government Committee on Wednesday, March 18, beginning at 1:30pm.

- ### -

**About CCADV:** Through training, technical assistance, resources and support, the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) helps build the capacity of domestic violence program members and allied professionals to meet the needs of the survivors and communities they serve. CCADV increases safety and support for survivors by engaging in policy and systems change, participates in and builds coalitions to create change through a collective voice, and serves as Colorado’s center for reliable resources on issues related to domestic violence. To learn more about CCADV, please visit [www.ccadv.org](http://www.ccadv.org).