



**THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**22nd SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND SENATE
8 MARCH 2023**

**BILL #5214
Funding the Lavender Cabinet**

SPONSORED BY: Mia Ritter, Chair, Budgetary Affairs Committee, Senator, Native American Cultural Center; Sammy Trout, Chair, University Affairs Committee, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Ava Ayala, Senator, College of Natural Sciences; Ellie Lutz, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources; Azariah Reed, Senator, Women and Gender Advocacy Center

WRITTEN BY: Ricky Winston, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources; Nora Aslan, Chair, Internal Affairs Committee, Senator, Pride Resource Center; Adrian Salazar, Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Senator, Pride Resource Center;

COLLABORATED WITH: Meaghan Liebe, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources; Enock Monanti, Associate Senator, Pride Resource Center; Ava McCall, Senator, Women and Gender Advocacy Center;

ENDORSED BY: Treasure Morgan, Senator, Native American Cultural Center; Claudia Paraiso, Senator, Black/African American Cultural Center, Mitchell Perque, Associate Senator, Pride Resource Center; Ash Brinker, Student; Morgan Snyder, Student, Liberal Arts Dean's Leadership Council; Joseph Financial Officer, United Men of Color; Joshua Duran, Vice President, United Men of Color; Shaza Mohamed, Co-President, Black Student Alliance; Nevaeh Newton, Public Relations Ambassador, Black Student Alliance; Precious Oladoye, GRIOT editor, Black/African American Cultural Center; Andrew Brown, President, United Men of Color; Stephan Galloway, Secretary, United Men of Color; Ariadne Athey, Senator, Student Disability Center; Ruairí Low, Senator, Student Disability Center; Charlie Williamson, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, ASCSU; Ali Owens, Student, Pride Leadership Council; Grace Storm, Student, Pride Student Staff; Luke Unsworth, Student; Dana Rumer, Student; Ryan Wagner, Student; Kylie Davis, Student; Tarysa Stodola, Student; Regan Ambery, Student; Adalyn Schumer, Senator, Adult Learners and Veteran's Services, Chair, Women's Caucus; Kerry Taylor, CSU Health Network, Referrals Coordinator, Transgender Healthcare Team; Shana Ryken, CSU Student Case Management, Referrals Coordinator, Transgender Healthcare Team; Gretchen Holt, CSU Health Network, Transgender Healthcare Team; Helen Bowden, CSU health Network Counseling Services, Coordinator of Eating Disorder Services, Transgender Health Care Team; Sagarika Sarma, Student Case Management, Referrals Coordinator, Transgender Health Care Team; Emily Morse, CSU Health Network, Nurse Practitioner, Transgender Health Care Team; Lauren Fosbenner, Student, Pride Leadership Council; Sarah

BILL #5214 – Funding the Lavender Cabinet

Dann, Pride Leadership Council, O-STEM, President; Moncia Sengupta, Pride Leadership Council, BAPPQ, President; Ro Contreras, Pride Leadership Council, Orgullo, President; Ty Smith, Director, Native American Cultural Center; DEI Affairs Committee

Abstract: This bill aims to fund the Lavender Cabinet; this cabinet serves trans, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming students with gender affirming garments resources and care. This bill aims to allocate \$20,000 from the Senate Discretionary Fund to continue this service for the students.

WHEREAS

Colorado State University admitted their largest class in the fall of 2022. This increase in the population increased the population of queer and trans students; and,

WHEREAS

This increase in student population has increased the usage of the Pride Resource Center's lavender cabinet. This cabinet provides essential services to our queer students; and,

WHEREAS

Colorado State University's Pillar of Community for Inclusion states, "We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents and contributions." ;and,

WHEREAS

Colorado State University's Pillar of Community for Service states, "We are responsible, individually and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities." ; and,

WHEREAS

CSU LGBTQ students experience highest levels of psychological distress, loneliness, and suicidality (and attempt) than all other populations; and,

WHEREAS

For CSU LGBTQ students, anxiety, depression, and stress impact their academics at significantly higher rates than all CSU populations; and,

WHEREAS

58% of LGBTQ students screen positive for suicide risk, a rate that is more than two [2] times greater than their non-LGBTQ peers; and,

BILL #5214 – Funding the Lavender Cabinet

WHEREAS

46% of LGBTQ students indicate ‘personal appearance’ as something they consider traumatic or very difficult to handle, a rate that is significantly higher than their non-LGBTQ peers; and,

WHEREAS

The Trevor Project has sited having access to spaces that affirm their sexuality and gender expression and access to gender affirming garments is associated with lower rates of suicidality among young LGBTQ+ people; and,

WHEREAS

The Lavender Cabinet provides gender affirming garments and resources for free use by the student population, these resources and their availability can be lifesaving to queer and trans students at Colorado State University; and,

WHEREAS

The Lavender Cabinet does not only provide Gender-Affirming garments and resources, but students are able to dispose of needles, pick up make-up, stim toys, hygiene products, menstrual products, and identity/gender based educational books. As well as recommend future products to be added into the Cabinet at a later time; and,

WHEREAS

Students were put on waitlists in the Fall Semester due to access demand of garments and resources that promote gender affirmation for students that need it. These garments are at no costs to the student body that utilizes them; and,

WHEREAS

Students that seek gender affirmation often use clothing and garments to have their body better reflect their identity. These garments often help trans individuals with gender dysphoria in curbing that dysphoria in social situations; and,

WHEREAS

Gender-affirming garments and resources often come at a high cost, and the free nature of the lavender cabinet allows CSU students to get these garments. Additionally, the Lavender Cabinet allows students to take the garments anonymously, protecting them from possible bias and retaliation; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

That the Senate Discretionary Fund allocates \$20,000 to the Pride Resource Center for the purpose of funding the access the Lavender Cabinet gives CSU students; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

BILL #5214 – Funding the Lavender Cabinet

The Pride Resource Center will use these funds to purchase materials (i.e. Trans Tape, Binders, Gaffs, etc.) for the Lavender Cabinet, continuing to offer the resources they offer now, as well as additional ones students request; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

If the total funds allocated are not used up by May 31st, 2026 the remainder returns to Senate Discretionary Fund; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That a copy of this document is sent Rob Long, President of ASCSU; Amy Parsons, CSU President; Tony Frank, Chancellor of the CSU System; Nicholas DeSalvo, Speaker of the Senate, Marcus Zacarias, Chief Justice; Maggie Hendrickson, Director, Pride Resource Center; Jessica Sholts, ASCSU Advisor; Jessica Dyrdaahl, ASCSU Advisor; Charlie Williamson, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, ASCSU; Adrian Salazar, Chair, DEI Affairs Committee, Senator, Pride Resource Center;

**PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF BILL 5214
22nd SESSION**

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

8 MARCH 2023

SENATE PASSAGE

DATE

ASCSU PRESIDENT ROB LONG

DATE

RESOURCES

Statistics for LGBTQ+ CSU Students on campus
CSU, Faculty Council. *Student Mental Health Update - Faculty Council | Colorado State University*. CSU Faculty Council ,
<https://facultycouncil.colostate.edu/media/sites/43/2019/10/StudentMentalHealthUpdate-Faculty-Council-v3.pdf>.
Trevor Project Statistics
Trevor project. “2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health.” *The Trevor Project*,
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/>.

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

" I strongly support this bill and urge you to do the same. As a psychologist who has worked at CSU Health Network for 15 years and who sees a lot of nonbinary and transgender students, I can attest that gender-affirming garments can literally be lifesaving. Because of systemic marginalization and oppression, these students are at significantly higher risk of eating disorders, depression, anxiety, and suicide. Having gender-affirming garments reduces gender dysphoria

BILL #5214 – Funding the Lavender Cabinet

and negative body image, which in turn, improves mental health. We have a unique opportunity to “put our money where our mouth is” regarding CSU’s espoused values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. I hope that you’ll take it and support these wonderful students. ”

Helen F. Bowden, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist
Coordinator of Eating Disorder Services
CSU Health Network Counseling Services

As a nurse practitioner at CSU Health Network who provides gender-affirming care, the resources provided by the Pride Resource Center and Lavender Cabinet are a valuable and necessary part of the well-being and success of the students we serve. This bill is in alignment with the CSU Principles of Community and our campus commitment to DEIJ work as well. I fully endorse this bill.

Emily Morse, DNP

I wholeheartedly endorse and support this bill. The products and services provided by the Pride Resource Center are vital for our trans and queer students. As a member of the Trans Healthcare team and as the Referral Coordinator for CSU Health Network I encourage passage of this bill.

Kerry Taylor
Referrals Coordinator: CSU Health Network
