



**THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**13<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD SENATE  
15 November 2023**

**BILL #5312  
FUNDING WGAC'S SURVIVOR SUPPORT FUND**

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**NOTICE:** *A signature to sponsor means that you only wish for the legislation to be heard, a signature to endorse means that you support the contents and/or actions of this legislation.*

**WRITTEN BY:** Claire Pickerel, Senator of Warner College of Natural Resources

**COLLABORATED WITH:** Lauren Davis, Senator of Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Olivia Friske, Senator of Women and Gender Advocacy Center

**SPONSORED BY:** Jorja Whyte, Director of Health and Wellbeing for ASCSU; Nora Aslan, Senator, Pride Resource Center, Chair, Budgetary Affairs Committee; Women's Caucus of ASCSU; Budgetary Affairs Committee;; Faraaz Bukhari, Chair, Housing Caucus, Senator, APACC; Abdu Tabib, Senator, APACC;

**ENDORSED BY:** Nick DeSalvo, President of Associated Students of Colorado State University; Alex Silverhart, Vice President of Associated Students of Colorado State University; Alexander Wilson, Senator of Student Disability Services; Senator Kevin Melchior, Adult Learner and Veteran Services; Sammy Trout, Accessibility Caucus Chair; BrookeLyn Reese, Senator for the Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Alejandra Quesada-Stoner Deputy Director of Basic Needs of ASCSU; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Affairs Committee; Warner College Council; Ellie Lutz, Vice Chair of DEI Committee of Associated Students of Colorado State University; Emily Doorack, Warner College Council; Megan Cox, Warner College Council; Kelli Chizmadia, Warner College Council; Erica LaFehr, Assistant Director for Educational Programs of the Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Victoria Benjamin, Assistant Director for Victim Services of the Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Kristin Middlesworth, Office Manager of the Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Lauren Shulman, Victim Advocacy of the Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Leticia Madrigal, Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Associated Students of Colorado State University; Ashton Duffield, Director, Finance; Jakye Nunley, Deputy Director, Health and wellness; Claudia Paraiso, Speaker Pro Tempore; Enock Monanti, Senator, Black/African American Cultural Center, Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for ASCSU; Yoseline Rivera, Associate Senator, El Centro; Madeleine Kamberg, Associate Senator, Adult Learner and Veteran Services; Haleigh Yankoski, Senator, Warner College of Natural Resources, President, Warner College of Natural Resources College Council;

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## BILL 5312

*ABSTRACT: This bill allocates \$21,000 from the ASCSU Senate Discretionary Fund to the WGAC's Survivor Support Fund in the ongoing support of survivors of Interpersonal Violence*

### WHEREAS

Interpersonal violence is an unsettling reality, both on and off campus, casting a pervasive shadow over many members of our community. Examples of such incidents include sexual assault, rape, sexual harassment, stalking, and abuse. Regrettably, the Colorado State University community is not immune to these issues. Survivors of such traumatic experiences often bear a range of burdens, including significant financial challenges that can hinder a student's ability to continue their education. The Survivor Support Fund aims to alleviate the pressing financial challenges survivors may face; and,

### WHEREAS

In their lifetime, 25% of women, 17% of men, and 50% of transgender individuals experience sexual assault. Among college-aged students, 18% of women, 4% of men, and 21% of transgender, genderqueer, nonconforming individuals have been sexually assaulted. Additionally, 13% of all college students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. Notably, female students aged 18-24 are three times more likely to experience sexual violence compared to women in general, while male students in the same age group are five times more likely to experience sexual violence than men in general; and,

### WHEREAS

Nearly 33% of women and 17% of men experience stalking at some point in their lifetime. Over 50% of stalking victims report being stalked before the age of 25, with nearly 25% of them being stalked before turning 18; and,

### WHEREAS

Women between the ages of 18 and 24 are at the highest risk of encountering abuse from their intimate partners. 43% of college women have reported instances of dating violence. Furthermore, 33% of women and 25% of men will be victims of intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

### WHEREAS

In the 2022-2023 academic year, the WGAC provided 4,237 interventions – 35.5% more than in 2021-2022 – to 456 survivors, marking a 10.4% increase from 2021. The previous record was 461 survivors in 2018-2019; and,

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### WHEREAS

Survivors of sexual assault and interpersonal violence often incur significant financial burdens, including medical expenses, therapy and counseling fees, legal costs, and other expenses. The WGAC has received requests for changing locks due to stalking or relationship violence, replacing tires damaged by relationship violence, purchasing textbooks with funds originally intended for student needs, paying divorce filing fees resulting from domestic violence, replacing clothing used as evidence during SANE exams, getting new phones due to partner damage, acquiring Ring cameras for safety planning, and replacing doors broken down by a partner. The Survivor Support Fund aims to alleviate some of that burden; and,

### WHEREAS

Due to the variety of situations that encompass interpersonal violence, the Women and Gender Advocacy Center will address how this money is allocated on a case-by-case basis. Providing survivors with assistance for these lower-cost items could potentially make the difference between recovery and despair; and,

### WHEREAS

The WGAC currently holds approximately \$13,700 in an account intended to offer support for survivors. This money is allocated in a needs-based format, enabling a rapid response for releasing funds to survivors to mitigate the impact as soon as possible. The addition of \$21,000 from the Senate's Discretionary Fund would further bolster the Survivor Support Fund, allowing more survivors to be served for an extended period; and,

### WHEREAS

The WGAC will be encouraged to spend \$3,000 or less per year of the funds originating from this bill. However, recognizing that survivor needs may vary from year to year, having a lump sum enables spending as the needs of survivors arise and won't restrict the WGAC and force them to turn survivors away; and,

### WHEREAS

A tracker will be implemented for ASCSU to better understand how the funds are allocated. This tracker will adhere to the rules of confidentiality, with reporting likely to include the date, the funds awarded, and the intended use of those funds; and,

### WHEREAS

## BILL 5312

By allocating funds to either Survivor Support Fund, ASCSU demonstrates its long-term commitment to prioritizing the well-being of the Colorado State University community and its members who have been or may be impacted by interpersonal violence; and,

### WHEREAS

These clauses may be amended at any time if information is incorrect or misleading. Amendments to these sections will be debated and voted on just as any other piece of the legislation; if at any point the wording of the legislation is not the same as the original intent was believed to have been by sponsors or endorsements, amendments can be made to have those names removed; so,

### **THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED**

The Senate, recognizing the urgency of the situation and the pressing need to support survivors of interpersonal violence; Hereby allocates the sum of \$21,000.00 from the Senate Discretionary Fund to the Women and Gender Advocacy Center's Non-Endowed Survivor Support Fund. This allocation ensures long-term, unbiased support for survivors; and,

### **THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED**

The Women and Gender Advocacy Center will have full control over the distribution of the Survivor Support Fund to provide assistance to survivors on a needs-based, case-by-case basis. In adherence to strict confidentiality protocols, the WGAC will document the amounts disbursed to each individual survivor and the specific purposes for which these funds were awarded; and,

### **THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED**

These records will be shared with ASCSU and will be sent to the Director and Deputy Director of Finance, the Budgetary Affairs Chair, the Director of Diversity & Inclusion, the President of ASCSU, and the Vice President of ASCSU. As well as both Slice and ASCSU's Accounting departments at the end of every semester for a duration of five (5) years, allowing for transparency and accountability in the allocation of these crucial resources; and,

### **THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED**

Any unspent funds by December 31, 2029, will be returned to the Senate Discretionary Fund.

### **THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED**

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Amy Parsons, Colorado State University President; and Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs; and Tony Frank, Chancellor of the CSU System; and Ben Schrader, ASCSU Advisor; and Evan Welch, ASCSU Advisor; and Nick DeSalvo, President of ASCSU; and Alex Silverhart, Vice President of ASCSU;

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and JoAnn Cornell, Director of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center; and Duan Ruff, Director of the Black/African American Cultural Center; and Aaron Escobedo Garmon, Director of El Centro; and Maggie Hendrickson, Director of the Pride Resource Center; and Tyrone Smith, Director of the Native American Cultural Center; and Justin Dove, Director of the Student Disability Center; and Erica LaFehr, Assistant Director for Educational Programs for the Women and Gender Advocacy Center; and Victoria Benjamin, Assistant Director for Victim Services for the Women and Gender Advocacy Center.

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PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF BILL 5312  
SESSION OF PASSAGE 18th

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**Yays-Nays-Abstentions**

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SENATE PASSAGE: 18th

DATE: 07/2/2024

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ASCSU PRESIDENT NICK DESALVO



DATE 2-20/24

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**RESOURCES**

- Women and Gender Advocacy Center. (2023, October 30). *WHAT IS CONSENT?* Retrieved from Colorado State University - Women and Gender Advocacy Center: <https://wgac.colostate.edu/education/what-is-consent/>
- RAINN. (2023, October 30). *Victims of Sexual Violence: Statistics*. <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence>
- “NCADV | National Coalition against Domestic Violence.” *Ncadv.org*, 8 Feb. 2017, [ncadv.org/blog/posts/quick-guide-teen-dating-violence#:~:text=43%25%20of%20dating%20college%20women](https://ncadv.org/blog/posts/quick-guide-teen-dating-violence#:~:text=43%25%20of%20dating%20college%20women). Accessed 8 Nov. 2023.

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Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center . *STALKING FACT SHEET*. Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center , 2017.

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**THAT THIS LEGISLATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO**

**Amy Parsons**, President of Colorado State University  
**Tony Frank**, Chancellor of the CSU System  
**Blanche Hughes**, CSU Vice President for Student Affairs  
**Ben Schrader**, ASCSU Advisor  
**Evan Welch**, ASCSU Advisor  
**Nick DeSalvo**, President of ASCSU  
**Alex Silverhart**, Vice President of ASCSU  
**JoAnn Cornell**, Director of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center  
**Duan Ruff**, Director of the Black/African American Cultural Center  
**Aaron Escobedo Garmon**, Director of El Centro  
**Maggie Hendrickson**, Director of the Pride Resource Center  
**Tyrone Smith**, Director of the Native American Cultural Center  
**Justin Dove**, Director of the Student Disability Center  
**Erica LaFehr**, Assistant Director for Educational Programs for the Women and Gender Advocacy Center  
**Victoria Benjamin**, Assistant Director for Victim Services for the Women and Gender Advocacy Center

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**ARCHIVE INFO [Parliamentarian Use Only]**

**INTRODUCTION DATE/SESSION:**

**ARCHIVE DATE:**

**COMMITTEE'S REVIEWED:**

**MONETARY? Y/Nd**