

October 29, 2018

Attn: Megan Schrader
The Denver Post
101 West Colfax
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Mrs. Schrader,

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, are appalled that your newspaper chose to publish the October 25, 2018 column, “Legal definitions should reflect facts not an alternate reality”, written by contributor Krista Kafer, that called on the Colorado State Legislature to mimic President Trump’s efforts to define transgender people out of existence.

At a time when Americans from different marginalized communities are facing unprecedented levels of attack from the White House, we as staunch supporters of a free press look to your newspaper and others to report on the truth and call out injustice in your editorials. So imagine our shock and anger when we read a column in your newspaper that has no basis in fact, and instead repeats decades-old transphobic talking points in order to isolate an entire community and justify defining legal recognition of transgender Coloradans out of existence.

We call on the Denver Post to immediately retract this column, and for the editorial board to publicly disavow the transphobic opinion written by a columnist in your employ.

Over the years, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community in Colorado has seen the Denver Post editorial board deliver fair opinions on issues that impact their everyday lives. Their numerous editorials defending Colorado’s nondiscrimination laws, and condemning attacks on the Colorado Civil Rights Division, are appreciated. That is why it is so disappointing to see this same newspaper print a column that was written to isolate 2 million transgender Americans, and to approve a policy that would do away with established medical and legal views of transgender rights, and legalize discrimination of transgender people in health care access, housing, employment, and public accommodations.

The entire LGBTQ community – particularly the transgender community – is comprised of proud Coloradans of all ages who work hard and pay taxes like everyone else. They do not deserve this kind of treatment, nor do they deserve to see this kind of transphobic rhetoric being printed at will by their state’s largest newspaper.

We ask you to retract this column immediately, and issue an editorial board opinion that publicly disavows the words written by Krista Kafer by Friday, November 2, 2018.

Sincerely,

The following:

Anti-Defamation League, Mountain States Region

Colorado LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce

Colorado Name Change Project

GLBT Community Center of Colorado

Inside Out Youth Services

Interfaith Alliance of Colorado

Matthew Shepherd Foundation

Ms. Emma R. Shinn, Esq.

One Colorado

PFLAG Denver

Rep. Daneya Esgar

Rep. Joann Ginal

Rep. Leslie Herod

Rev. Amanda Henderson

Mr. Scott Levin

Sen. Dominick Moreno

Sen. Lucia Guzman

Shinn Law Office, LLC

TranSending

Transformative Freedom Fund