



NEWS RELEASE

June 12, 2017

Contact:

Alvina Earnhart, 720-854-4476

Helen Raleigh, 720-204-8222

**Colorado Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to Hold
Briefing on the Blaine Amendment:
Colorado Constitution's No Aid Clause and Its Impact in Colorado**

- WHAT:** Public Briefing: Colorado Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
- WHEN:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** University of Denver, Sturm Hall (Building 26), Lindsey Auditorium, Room 281, 2000 E. Asbury Ave, Denver, CO 80208

On July 18, 2017, in Denver, the Colorado Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public briefing to examine the issue of the Blaine Amendment.

In 1875, Congressman James Blaine proposed an amendment (Blaine Amendment) to the U.S. Constitution. The Amendment was intended to exclude from government funding schools that taught "sectarian" faiths (mainly Catholicism), while allowing those funds to "common schools," which taught the "common" or "nonsectarian" faith (i.e. non-denominational Protestantism). Although this amendment failed to pass the Congress, 38 states, including Colorado, adopted some form of the Blaine Amendment in their constitutions.

In June 2015, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that a Douglas County Scholarship program would violate the state's Blaine Amendment (also known as the "No Aid" Clause), which bars "public moneys" from being allocated "in aid of any church or sectarian society."

The Committee will hear from individuals with expertise on Colorado's No Aid Clause. It will examine the history of the Blaine Amendment, as well as arguments for and against its continued use. The Committee will hear testimony on the effects of the Amendment on the civil rights of a wide range of families in Colorado's schools. The public is invited to the meeting and encouraged to address the Committee following the presentations.

#####

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights matters and issuing an annual federal civil rights enforcement report. For information about the Commission and its Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

1961 Stout Street • Suite 13-201 • Denver, CO 80294
Ph: (303) 866-1040 • Fax: (303) 866-1050