



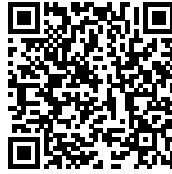
# Ken Degraaf

House of Representatives District  
HD-022

Republican

Contact: 303-866-2927

200 E Colfax RM 307 Denver, CO 80203  
United States



View Online


This legislator voted constitutionally on **83%** of the votes shown below.


★ Pro-liberty


✗ Anti-liberty


? Did not Vote


Vote


**1. SB23-629 Taxpayer-Funded Preschool "Bonus Payments"** **No**  
(passed 50 to 14 on 5/6/2023). Creates "bonus payments" to incentivize participation in the Colorado universal preschool provider program. 

**2. SB23-254 Limiting "No-Knock" Warrants** (passed 42 to 23 on 5/2/2023). Limits the issuance of a "no-knock search warrant" to a situation in which there is either probable cause for an arrest of a suspect or because of a "credible threat to the life of any person." 

**3. SB23-284 'Morning-After' Pill Mandate** (passed 58 to 5 on 4/29/2023). Requires health benefit plans to cover a continuous 12-month use of over-the-counter or prescription contraceptives. 

**4. HB23-1026 Grandparent "Family Time" in Child Custody Cases** (passed 51 to 13 on 4/26/2023). Provides that a grandparent may overcome the presumption that any parental determination regarding "family time" is in the "best interests of the child" during a custody case, allowing a court to appoint a child's legal representative. 

**5. HB23-1143 Illegal Aliens as Law Enforcement Officers** (passed 46 to 18 on 3/6/2023). Permits recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to become law enforcement officers. 

**6. SJR23-006 Equal Rights Amendment** (passed 52 to 12 on 3/2/2023). Proclaims that "it is time for the United States Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment." 



## COLORADO LEGISLATIVE **SCORECARD** BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Rep. Ken Degraaf

Lifetime Score: 83%

CO Scorecard 2023

2023 Regular Session Score 83%

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how state legislators are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

**Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about your legislator's record on key votes.**

U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the Colorado General Assembly in 2023 and ranks state representatives and senators based on their fidelity to (U.S.) constitutional and limited-government principles.

This is our second state-level Scorecard; the selected votes may not be reflective of legislators' overall records. Their cumulative scores will change as we add more votes. Please check regularly for updates.



### Get Alerts

Scan to view and subscribe to legislative action alerts.

### The Constitution

Learn more about the U.S. Constitution and our founding principles.



# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

---

## 1. Taxpayer-Funded Preschool “Bonus Payments”

SB23-269 creates “bonus payments” to incentivize participation in the Colorado universal preschool provider program.

Education is not the role of government. A child's education is the responsibility of—and a fundamental right of choice retained by—his or her parents. Moreover, this bill's “bonus payments” scheme threatens educational freedom by using a form of taxpayer-funded bribery to displace traditional private preschools in favor of the state's universal preschool program. It exchanges public subsidies for curriculum control, effectively turning all participating preschools into government preschools. Coercing the citizens of Colorado to hand over more of their hard-earned tax dollars to further support a compulsory, government-run, and failing K-12 school system violates their individual liberties assured by U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment.

## 2. Limiting “No-Knock” Warrants

SB23-254 limits the issuance of a “no-knock search warrant” to a situation in which there is either probable cause for an arrest of a suspect or because of a “credible threat to the life of any person.”

“No-knock” warrants undermine the rights of Americans ensured by the 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. They violate the essential principle that law enforcement should not forcibly enter a premises without first providing notice of their authority and purpose of executing a warrant.

## 3. ‘Morning-After’ Pill Mandate

SB23-284 requires health benefit plans to cover a continuous 12-month use of over-the-counter or prescription contraceptives.

Hormonal birth control drugs and devices, particularly high-dose ‘morning-after’ pills, can and do prevent uterine implantation of developing preborn children, causing them to function not only as “contraceptives,” but also as abortifacients, thereby resulting in ‘silent abortions.’ Given that the care of human life—not its destruction—is the greatest responsibility of government, Colorado ought to forbid all methods of abortion and secure the right to life for every preborn child. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and unalienable right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

## 4. Grandparent “Family Time” in Child Custody Cases

HB23-1026 provides that a grandparent may overcome the presumption that any parental determination regarding “family time” is in the “best interests of the child.”

Final decision-making authority over the upbringing and care of a child belongs to the child's parents—not their grandparents or the government. No law-abiding custodial parent should ever be compelled to relinquish their child under threat of the judicial system. Opponents of traditional marriage and the family are also working to advocate for “equal-shared parenting” and similar legislation that seeks to rewrite U.S. family law entirely, being modeled after the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. If this is not opposed, it will have severe long-lasting consequences for parental rights. Parental rights are protected by the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment, which “Judges in every State shall be bound thereby.”

## 5. Illegal Aliens as Law Enforcement Officers

HB23-1143 permits Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients to become law enforcement officers.

Persons who enter the United States illegally—which, by definition, is a crime—should not be permitted sanctuary or residency in Colorado, let alone be considered eligible for appointment as local law enforcement officers. Rather than pursue a blatantly unconstitutional and anti-American policy that erodes both the rule of law and the value of citizenship, the General Assembly should use its powers reserved under the U.S. Constitution's 10th Amendment to end the crisis of illegal immigration and provide for the public safety.

## 6. Equal Rights Amendment

SJR23-006 proclaims that “it is time for the United States Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment.”

The ERA would empower Congress to enforce radical feminist legislation on a potentially unlimited number of issues related to ‘sex discrimination,’ ranging from ‘bodily autonomy’ (e.g., abortion) to ‘gender equity’ (e.g., equal pay). If its proponents get their way, the ERA will have far-reaching implications. It's nothing less than a declaration of war against women based on the false premise of ‘gender equality.’ Neither ‘women's rights’ nor ‘human rights’ can be defined apart from the fact that every person is born distinctly male or female. Although both men and women are made in the image of “their Creator,” they each, according to biological sex, have unique, but complementary, characteristics and roles. Whereas the U.S. Constitution guarantees “equal protection” for the “unalienable Rights” of all individuals, consistent with the “Laws of Nature and of Nature's God,” the ERA would alter it a vain attempt to impose ‘equal outcomes.’