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**Statement of Freedom Defense Act's Defeat from Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning**  
*Paula Schriefer, President & CEO, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning*

**Denver, CO**— Spring institute for Intercultural Learning, along with the communities it serves, shares its disappointment over the defeat of the Freedom Defense Act, HB-1230, along a party line vote in the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee voted down the bill by a vote of 3-2, after hearing testimonies from over a dozen witnesses in favor of the bill, including survivors of Japanese internment camps, the ACLU, Spring Institute, representatives of the Interfaith Alliance, and representatives of Colorado's Muslim community.

The bill, sponsored by Representative Joseph Salazar, would have prevented Colorado officials from assisting in the creation of federal registries of Colorado residents based on race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, or religious affiliation. It would have also protected Colorado from federal overreach by ensuring that our local law enforcement would not have used their staff to do the job of federal agencies.

"We would like to thank Rep. Salazar and the bill's co-sponsors", said Paula Schriefer, CEO of Spring Institute, who [testified](#) before the Senate Committee on April 10th. "Although this legislature, like our nation's Congress, is too often divided along political lines, I would like to remind us all of the fact that perhaps the greatest violation of our nation's ideals in the past century—namely the internment of American citizens of Japanese descent—was ordered by a Democratic President and it took over 40 years and a Republican President to issue an apology."

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[Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning](http://www.springinstitute.org) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to empower people and organizations to succeed across languages and cultures. To find out more, visit our website at [www.springinstitute.org](http://www.springinstitute.org).