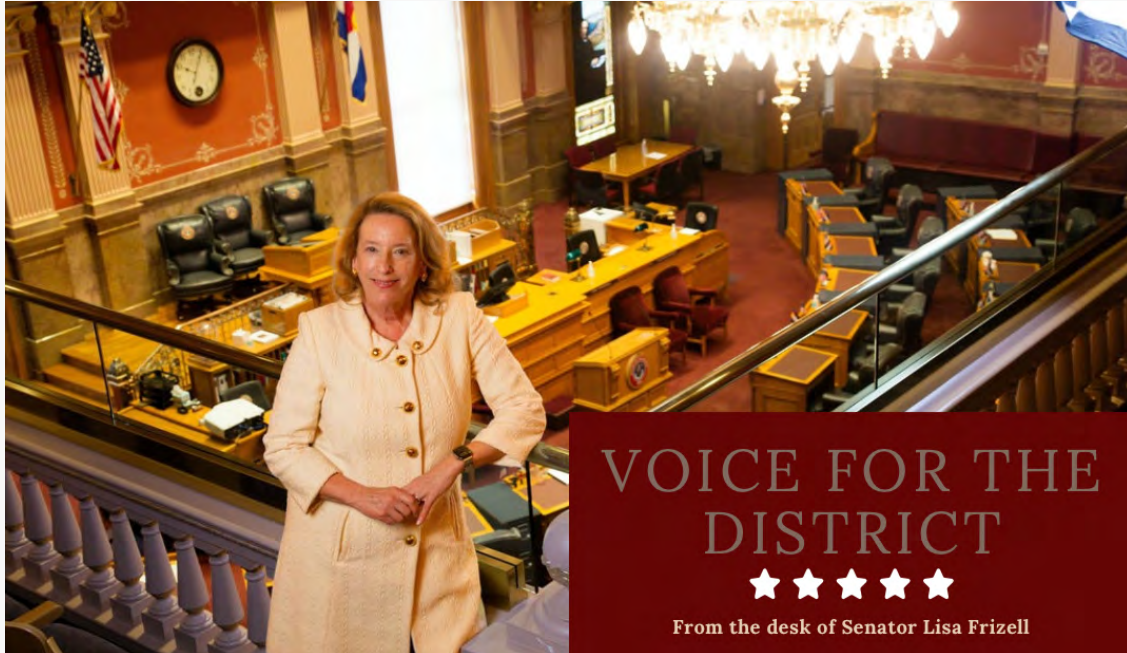


Subject: Week Two – Calm Before the Storm

From: Assistant Minority Leader Lisa Frizell <lisa.frizell.senate@coleg.gov>

Date: 1/23/26, 1:57 PM

To: Lori <lori@castlerock.org>



2026 Legislative Session

Week Two - Calm Before the Storm

Greetings Lori,

I don't know about you all, but it seems incredible that we are almost through January! Things have still been moving slowly at the Capitol this week: No committees other than SMART Act hearings, and mostly ceremonial items in the Senate Chamber.

Next week we should see things pick up - but read on for more!



Last week, I attended the Centennial Circle Breakfast hosted by Colorado Christian University. My colleagues and I shared expectations for this session, as well as ways for constituents to be involved.

SMART Act Hearings

The “State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent Government Act” (SMART Act) requires executive agencies and departments to present information to joint legislative committees annually, updating legislatures on their respective operations. This information includes a performance plan, regulatory agenda, department budget requests, and associated legislative agendas for the upcoming session.

The Smart Act also requires the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) to conduct performance audits for one or more programs/services in at least two departments. This session's departments include the Department of Public Health and Environment on the Health Facility Licensing Program and Cash Funds and the Department of Natural Resources on Oil and Gas Reporting: Production, Emissions, and Severance Taxes. The Auditor presents to the joint committees and reports on audit recommendations that were only partially or not implemented by each department. Also included in each hearing is a presentation by the Joint Budget Committee on funding requests made by each department. These

two presentations are important because they provide a more objective perspective of the department's work and issues they may have.

Last week, our Education committee held the 2026 SMART Government Act Hearing on January 15th and 16th. The Finance committee meets on January 26th and the Health and Human Services committee meets January 27th and 28th for the assigned SMART Act hearings.



This Wednesday, January 21st was the first meeting for the *Legislative Audit Committee*. I was honored to be elected as the chair, and look forward to holding the gavel this session! We will continue to meet every two weeks on Wednesday mornings.

Law Enforcement & Public Safety



The Capitol welcomed sheriffs from across Colorado on Wednesday, and I was pleased to see Douglas County Sheriff Darren Weekly. He has dedicated 30+ years to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and I am so grateful for his impact. Friday brought in another important team from our law enforcement, the police chaplains! I was honored to speak with Douglas County Sheriff's Chaplain Tim Ralph, Undersheriff Jason Kennedy, and Castle Rock PD Chaplain Kathryn Wille. Their efforts to provide spiritual support and care are indispensable.

As this session unfolds however, more and more bills are coming to light that will have a detrimental effect on law enforcement and public safety in Colorado. I will always support Law Enforcement and am ready to dig in and fight against policy that will make our state less safe.



Caucus Staff Highlight

I would like to take a moment to recognize our remarkable staff here in the Senate Republican office! Their work is crucial to legislator success, and I am so grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment being displayed for this session. You can learn more about each staff member, and sign up for email updates on the [Official Caucus Website](#)

This year, the communications team is striving to enhance our social media presence and boost each senator's public image. The goal is transparent, accurate representation of our members. You can stay up-to-date on all things related to our caucus through the official social media pages on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#).

The focus of the policy team is to provide briefings on the numerous bills that are considered throughout the session. They review and summarize complex legislation which assists members' understanding on a time crunch. As policy analysts, they provide a non-partisan overview of all the laws being introduced in the General Assembly.

As the Assistant Minority Leader, having a reliable and sharp staff has been critical to the success of the caucus.

Staying Informed

As the session continues, I would like to provide you with some resources to stay informed on what is happening at the Capitol. To watch current or previous debates on the floor of the House or Senate, you can visit the Colorado Channel on YouTube. Click [here](#) to watch.

The Colorado General Assembly [website](#) is also a great resource. Some of the information on this site includes tracking bills, listening to committees, and finding contact information for legislators. Committee proceedings the session will now be recorded and available for the public to view live, or archived meetings!

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,



Lisa Frizell

Assistant Minority Leader

Senate District 2

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