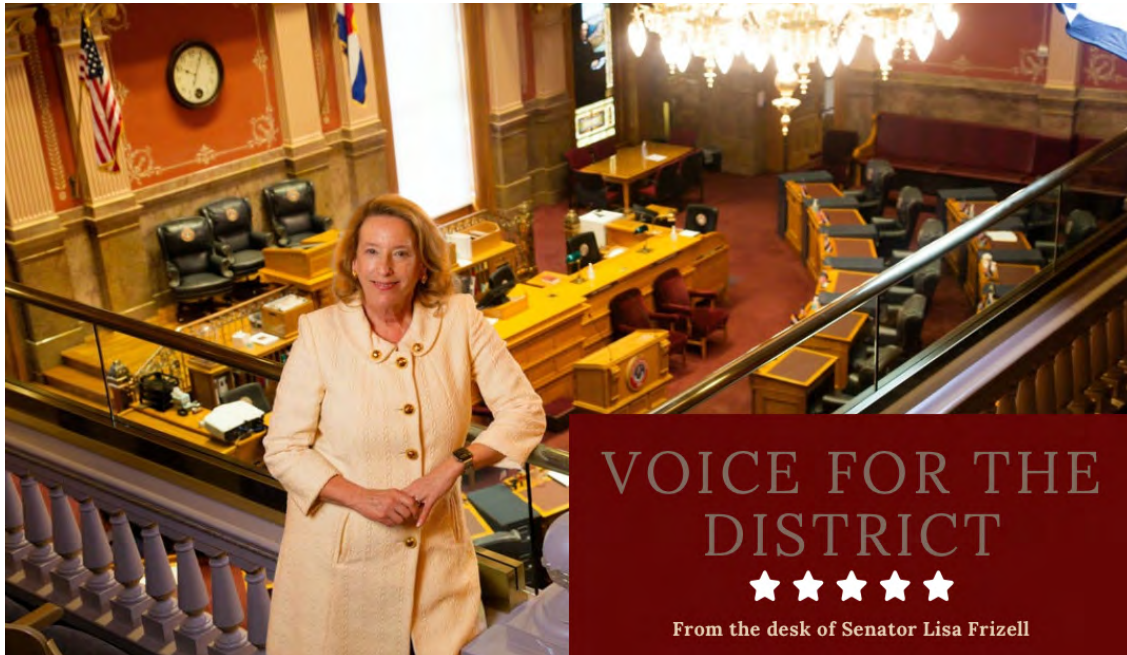




2026 Legislative Session

Week Eight - Only 68 Days Left

Greetings Senator Lisa Frizell,

Welcome back – and yay snow!! This has been a full week of Capitol visits, engaging committees, and important discussions. We are almost at the halfway mark and 439 bills have been introduced in the General Assembly. Thus far 68 bills have concluded and 371 are still active – needless to say there is a lot of work ahead of us! Please read on for my

weekly update from under the Golden Dome.

My Bill Updates

[HB26-1020](#) ‘Colorimetric Field Drug Tests in Drug Possessions’ successfully passed through the Senate Judiciary committee unanimously on Monday, and also passed Third Reading 35-0 on Friday. This bill protects Coloradans from wrongful arrests or convictions for drug possession by addressing error rates of colorimetric field drug tests. Colorimetric tests are a field assessment that informs law enforcement if a substance is an illegal drug – but they provide “false positive” results 20 to 30 percent of the time. For example, the tests are unable to distinguish between the chemical structures of illegal drugs and common household items, such as sugar sweeteners and over-the-counter medications. Public testimony in support of HB-1020 disclosed real life experiences of the consequences from wrongful convictions.



It was great to meet with students and faculty from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists ([ACOG](#)) on Monday. We discussed the various legislative efforts impacting the healthcare community in Colorado,

and some of the ways state regulations increase provider costs.

Bad Bills:

[SB26-043](#) ‘Record Keeping and Regulation of Sale of Firearm Barrel’ (Yes, that’s actually the name of the bill!) has been referenced in several past newsletters. As an update, this tyrannical bill passed in the Senate Chamber on Monday with a 16-19 vote and will continue to the House.

[SB26-041](#) ‘Consumer Protections Medical Care Entities’ requires specific information regarding a merger or acquisition of a healthcare institution or group be submitted to the Colorado Attorney General’s Office. This bill also “prohibits transactions that will create a monopoly, lessen competition, or threaten consumer welfare.” Regulating medical businesses burdens their ability to properly function and focus on patient care while also degrading the free-market system we have. Fortunately, my colleagues on the Health and Human Services Committee and I were able to kill this bill on Thursday after many hours of testimony.

[SB26-109](#) ‘Building Code Accessibility’ requires that residential housing units containing more than 50 units must have at least two percent of their units be fully accessible per disability standards. This policy will increase housing costs and will add to the shortage of housing in Colorado by stunting development and construction. This bill passed Committee on Thursday and will next be heard in the Senate Chamber.

[HB26-1001](#) ‘Housing Developments on Qualifying Properties’ prioritizes State over local housing development plans, and forces localities into high-density housing regardless of available infrastructure. This bill ignores possible exceptions that may be needed and tries to apply too broad of a standard while forcing communities to handle the negative consequences. It passed Committee on Thursday and will be heard in the Chamber for Second Reading on Monday, March 9th.

[HB26-1013](#) ‘Ratio Utility Billing Systems’ (RUBS) authorizes landlords to allocate utility bill charges across tenants rather than individualized bills per usage. A RUBS utility system forces tenants to pay for electricity they aren’t using but rather pay a share of all electricity used. This bill essentially ‘splits the check’ between all tenants in an apartment complex rather than having tenants pay only the utilities they actually use. HB26-1013 passed Committee on March 5th and will be heard in the Senate Chamber for Second Reading on March 9th.

Good Bills

[SB26-053](#) ‘Colorado Housing and Finance Authority Mortgage POST Officers First Responders’ expands eligibility for mortgage loans through the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority ([CHFA](#)) to law enforcement officers and first responders -who are all too often unable to live in the community they serve. By supporting affordable housing opportunities for law enforcement and first responders statewide, this bill ensures CHFA remains committed to its mission of investing into community development. This bill has passed through the Senate and been introduced in the House.

[SB26-075](#) ‘Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Activity Offenses’ requires judges to send people convicted of human trafficking to prison and to give them longer sentences than currently imposed. By making clear that class 3 felony human trafficking is considered especially dangerous to society, this will also allow the court to increase the sentence even further under laws meant for high-risk crimes. In 2023, Colorado had the 10th highest human trafficking rate in the country -and our statistics have not improved according to the Common Sense Institute Human Trafficking in Colorado 2025 Update. This bill establishes longer prison sentences that are essential to prevent human traffickers from continuing their crimes and to protect victims and their families from harm.

[SB26-111](#) ‘Protections Against Child Rape’ increases the penalty for sexual assault of a child. Currently, someone convicted of sexual assault of a child can be sentenced to probation or incarceration. This bill prohibits judges from sentencing convicts of class 3 and 4 felonies to probation and requires their incarceration.



The 2026 Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day highlighted the work we can do to support people with IDD in Colorado. There were many visitors at the Capitol on Tuesday including advocacy groups, family members, researchers, educators, and providers.

It was also great to attend the IDD presentation and Awards ceremony at the Denver Art Museum! It's always great to visit with Matt VanAuken, CEO of [Developmental Pathways](#), and get an update on their important work supporting individuals with disabilities in Douglas County. Developmental Pathways does so much to facilitate care coordination for individuals and families as they navigate the complex world of disability services. Focusing on both early interventional and long term care, they provide a broad spectrum of services and programs for this very vulnerable community.



LEAD: Mental Health Advocates

This week was the 32nd annual Legislative Education & Advocacy Day (LEAD) hosted by [Mental Health Colorado](#). Several constituents who are advocates with the organization shared how mental health policy affects their lives and communities. Among my visitors was Miss Colorado, Gabrielle Gramont!

Parker Chamber of Commerce Day

It was great to speak with the [Parker Chamber of Commerce](#) for their Day at the Capitol! I am honored to represent this wonderful town as part of my district, and appreciate the opportunity to connect with the Parker business community.



CBRE Summit

I was honored to join [CBRE](#) for their Multifamily Policy Summit on Wednesday. Our panel discussed the evolving housing landscape in Colorado and attempted to answer the question, 'How has our region fallen from a place of growth and prosperity to being viewed as one of the most challenging environments in the country to operate housing in?' With over 75 clients at the event, there was a great discussion over this topic.



Habitat for Humanity

One of my very favorite people visited the Capitol on Wednesday – Karen Kallenberg is the Executive Director at [Habitat for Humanity of Colorado](#) and is a force of nature in the arena of affordable home ownership. There are 23 local Habitat offices serving our state, which increase access to affordable home ownership!

Stay 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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