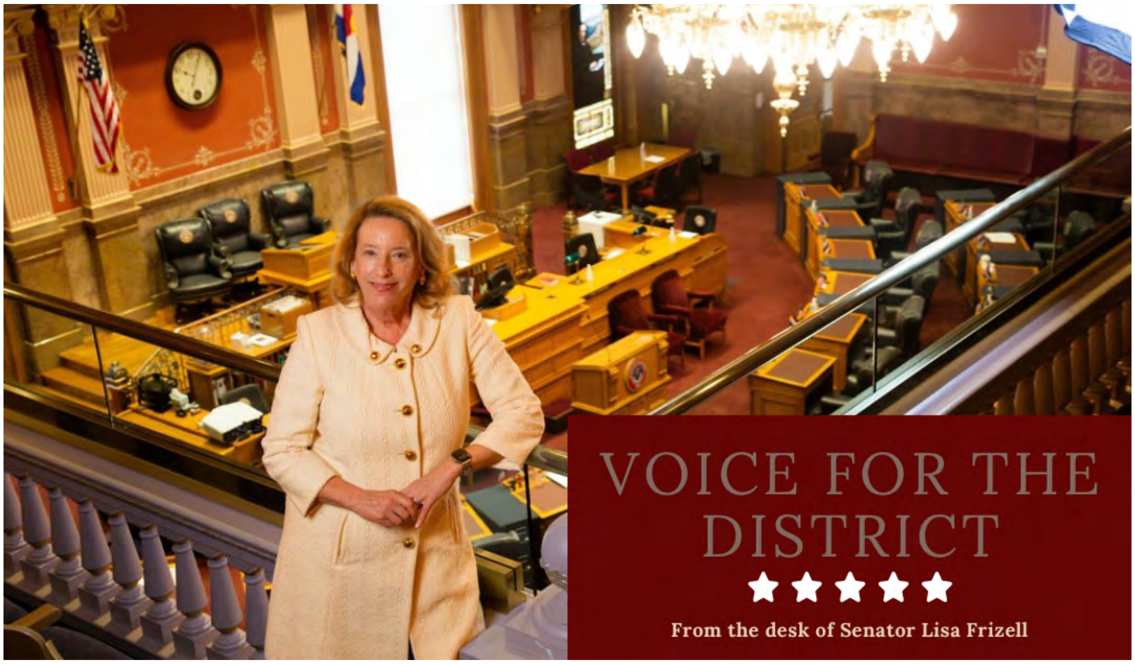
LISA FRIZELL

SENATE DISTRICT 2



2026 Legislative Session

Week Fifteen - A Few Weeks Left To Go

Greetings Lori,

The Colorado General Assembly has passed the 100th day of session! There are only a few weeks left to work through this year's legislation, and we are all fully immersed in the process. As of Monday, April 20th a total of 586 bills have been introduced, with 267 still needing action. The majority of these bills, 127, are in Committee in the 1st House. While 101 bills have already been sent to the Governor, another 100 bills were lost/ postponed indefinitely during the process. I still have various bills making their way through, and look forward to the completion of my sponsored legislation. Please read on for more details from my week in the Senate.

My IDD Amendment to the State Budget

In an unfortunate decision made in the Long Bill Conference Committee

yesterday —of the two amendments for the IDD community that were voted in on the floor, one was stripped off. While they were adopted in the Senate chamber during budget week, the JBC sitting as the Conference Committee has the authority to review all amendments and decide whether or not to maintain them. The budget is not yet fully finalized, but my proposed measures to protect services for individuals in our state with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities have been removed, and even more disturbing, the funding source I proposed is being redirected to "competency". If you would like to listen to the proceedings of this committee, please click here **with discussion of my amendment starting at 3:50pm. I will continue to fight for the rights of this community and am extremely disappointed with this decision. Thank you to everyone who contacted legislators here at the Capitol urging their support of my amendments, and I will continue to work with the JBC to find funding for DD Waivers - in any form possible.**

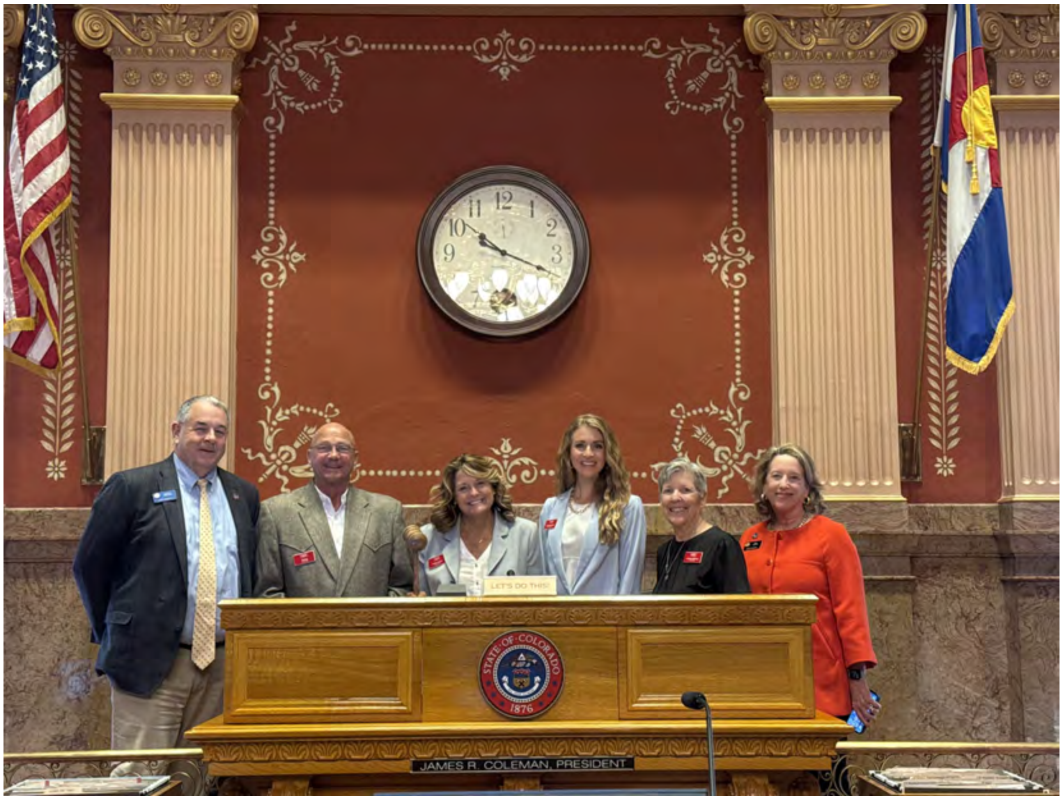
My Bill Updates

SB26-162 **'Sensitive Test Results in Healthcare' acknowledges the sensitivity of cancer screening results and the importance of consulting with your physician to understand them. I brought forward this legislation in response to my own experience with receiving test results through a patient portal, without the benefit of a conversation with my Oncologist. Patient Portals were mandated by the 21st Century Cures Act passed in 2016, which requires that healthcare providers give patients immediate and free electronic access to their health information, including clinical notes and test results. SB26-162 stipulates for cancer test results, including genetic marker testing, that results are not posted to a patient's portal for up to 72-hours -giving the physician time to have a personal conversation with their patient, and interpret the results for them. Colorado would join Kentucky, Texas and California in providing this measure to protect patients' wellbeing. This approach maintains the founding principle of the federal** 21st Century Cures Act **–patient-centeredness. This bill is supported by the Colorado Medical Society and the Colorado Oncology Society, and was heard in the Senate Health & Human Services committee on Wednesday. It is moving forward to the Committee of the Whole for Second Reading next Monday.**

HB26-1313 **'Adjust Requirements** Statewide Affordable Housing Fund**' will replace the 3% annual affordable housing growth requirement for Proposition 123 funds with a new "target increase number", and add two new waiver options. A 'good faith effort waiver' will be for governments**

that cannot meet the 3% requirement in 2024 to 2026, and an 'adjustment waiver' will be for jurisdictions that cannot meet their post-2027 target but can document constraints and commit to at least one new affordable unit per year. This bill is a shift toward a flexible permitting and community growth metric, which is an improvement over the existing framework. As originally designed, the requirements fail to account for wide variation in development capacity across Colorado. Local governments should be able to align affordable housing targets with their actual needs and capacity rather than the current fixed statewide goal. While I did not personally support Proposition 123, and originally voted in opposition to it, I respect the will of the voters who passed this citizen initiative in 2022. In order to prioritize what my constituents value, I am supporting this bill to improve the implementation of this measure. After being heard in the Senate Local Government & Housing committee on Thursday, it moves to the floor for Second Reading next week.

SB26-130 **'Medical Spas Deceptive Trade Practices' was "postponed indefinitely" in the Health & Human Services Committee due to a need for further analysis of the issues at hand. This bill would have prohibited med-spa facilities from improperly storing, using, or selling mislabeled or fraudulent products making false claims of FDA approval. Transparency should never be optional in patient care especially when being prescribed or treated with certain narcotics or products. This legislation is very important for consumer safety, but this bill wasn't the best way to address safety issues in this industry. Several med-spas have been caught using deceitful practices, some resulting in severe injury and even death. This is a very complex issue that needs to consider all parties involved - healthcare and service providers, patients, and business owners.**

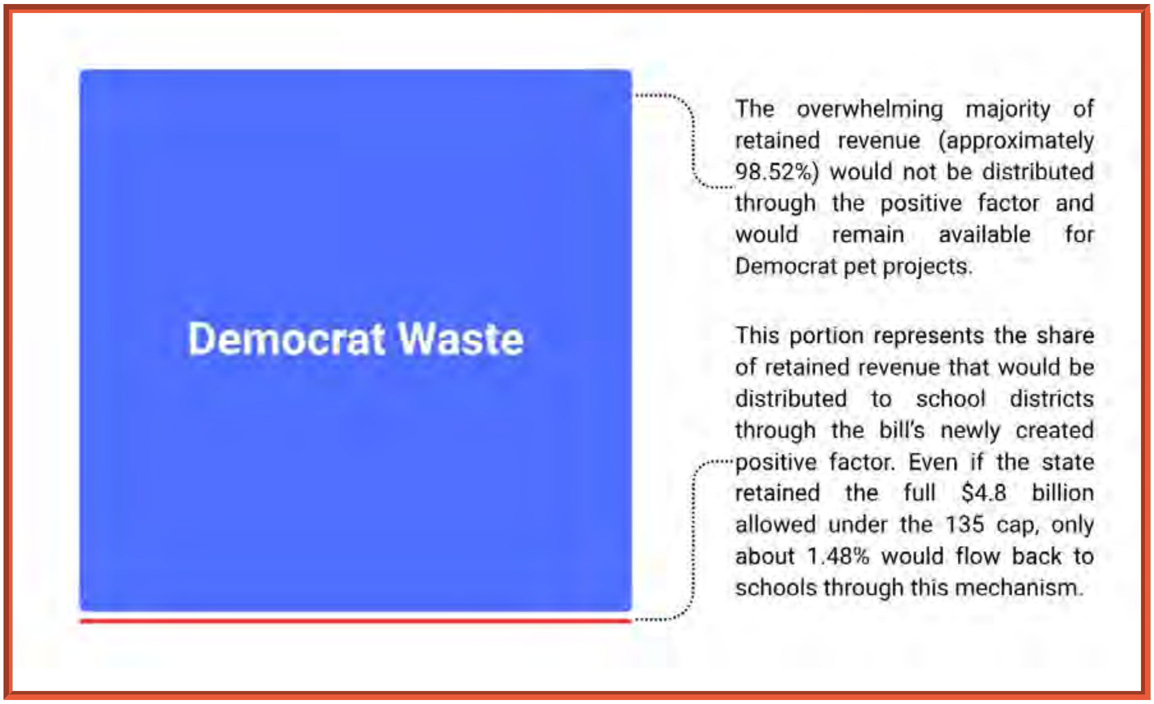


<u>LPR Legislative Shadow Day</u>

The Leadership Program of the Rockies ([LPR]) was at the Capitol on Tuesday with members of this year's class. I was happy to welcome my shadow, Linda Conner, from Parker as she experienced a day in the life of a Colorado State Legislator. LPR provides education for emerging leaders on the principle of being active and engaged citizens. I always enjoy welcoming people to the Senate Chamber where they can see firsthand how State Law is created.

SB26-135 **'State Public K-12 Education Funding' has been referenced in previous newsletters, but was heard in the Senate this Friday for Second Reading. I feel like I need to address this bill again as the true intentions are disguised by a misleading title. This policy decimates our Taxpayer Bill of Rights and dramatically expands state spending authority. My colleagues and I are in strong opposition to this bill as it is a significant tax increase and creates a 'slush fund' that the Democrats will use to fund their never-ending spending habits. Bill sponsors are essentially trying to trick constituents into voting in favor of this policy by claiming the revenue generated would go to schools – when only a very small share of the retained revenue (approximately 1.48%) is actually distributed to districts through what they call the "positive factor" leaving the vast majority available for other state spending as illustrated in the graphic below. Conditional on voter approval, this bill allows the state to retain** and spend revenue exceeding the Referendum C cap that would otherwise be refunded to taxpayers. These excess funds are estimated to be $4.8 billion for FY 2027-28, which the state could then retain and spend on anything.

Please Click the Graphics to Enlarge!

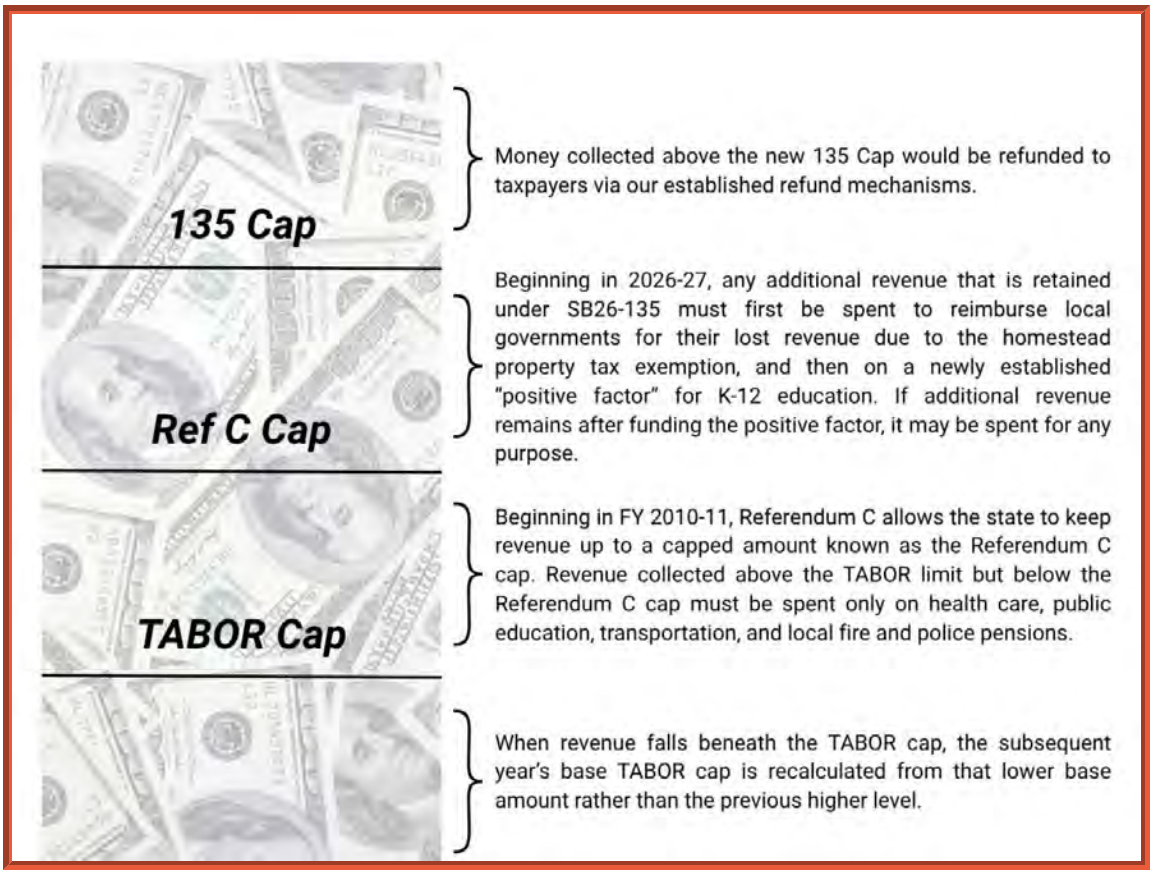


In the first year, approximately $71 million will be distributed to schools through the positive factor under this new formula. Since 2020, total public education revenue has risen 21% from $14.5 billion to $17.6 billion, even though student populations continue to decline in most school districts. In the 2024-2025 school year, 116 of the 178 districts in Colorado lost enrollment. In light of these statistics, it doesn't make sense to dramatically increase funding for school districts that have fewer students to support. Permanently giving up TABOR refunds, no assurance that funds reach a classroom or teacher's salary, and increasing state government bloat by approximately $38 billion over ten years, hardly seems like a winning strategy in my opinion.

On the Senate floor, each member of our caucus took to the podium defending the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, and proposed amendments to make the bill more honest about the impacts of the measure. None of these amendments were accepted by the Majority party, however, even as the main point was transparency for the voters. The State Legislature should be honest about the bills we pass -especially when it comes to

referred measures such as this.

Overall, TABOR refunds will be reduced by $1.1 billion in FY 27-28 as a result of this measure if passed. Additionally, the school finance formula's structure provides less of the "positive factor" funding to rural schools even though they face higher per-student costs. I urge you to vote NO on this ballot measure in November if it does pass through the legislature (which it will). There will be no re-vote – this is a permanent interception of the TABOR surplus every year starting in 2027 with no way back unless a new ballot measure is introduced.



Good Bills:

SB26-006 **'Parity for Non-Opioid Pain Management Drugs' requires doctors to provide patients with non-opioid options when prescribing patients with pain management medication. Additionally, the cost-sharing, co-payment, or deductible for the non-opioid alternative cannot be greater than the opioid option. Approximately 8.6 million Americans reported misusing prescribed opioids in 2023, and in Colorado 1,179 opioid-involved deaths were reported in a 12-month period ending in October 2025. Opioid addiction continues to be a pressing public health issue in our state, and this bill has the potential to reduce patients' risk**

for addiction. I support this bill fully because I believe patients should have options for the pain medication being offered, not automatically be prescribed opioids –which shockingly represents 35% of all drugs prescribed today. This bill passed through the Senate on Third Reading and will soon be heard in the House.

ATTENTION
I apologize for the lack of good bills in this week's newsletter! The Legislative Session has been full of sub-par and bad bills, and as we enter the last few weeks we are simply down to the dregs.

Bad Bills:

SB26-042 **'Revenue Classification Taxpayers Bill of Rights' directly attacks the Taxpayer Bill Of Rights (TABOR) by reclassifying revenue generated through civil fines, penalties, and excise tax on aircraft fuel as TABOR exempt. Rather than address the State's overspending, this bill weakens the protections afforded by TABOR and deprives taxpayers of refunds. TABOR surpluses belong in the hands of Colorado residents, but this bill seeks to undermine the traditional mechanics of TABOR by exploiting a couple of statutory technicalities. This bill passed in the Senate Chamber on Wednesday, and heads to the House Committee on Finance next.**

HB26-1207 **'Disclosure of Demographic Workforce Data' requires companies with 100+ employees to report demographic workforce data to the Secretary of State. This data must be collected through the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's 'Employer Information Report'. The main issue with this bill is it requires employers to complete these reports even if federal law repeals or discontinues this requirement. This would create another hurdle for business owners operating in Colorado and create a duplicative state-level requirement. This bill is being heard next week in the Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee. If you would like to sign up to testify at the hearing, click** here**.**

HB26-1005 **'Worker Protection Collective Bargaining' removes a portion of the Labor Peace Act by scrapping the second election requirement which could weaken Colorado businesses and deter future commercial investments. This is a reprise of a bill from last year that was vetoed by Governor Polis. Like last year's legislation, this bill completely upends a**

system that has worked for over 80 years. In addition, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) shows 70% of the population opposing a prohibition of second elections. I strongly oppose this policy and hope that the Governor will once again exercise his veto powers. This bill was laid over on Friday and scheduled to be heard next week on Second Reading in the Senate.

SB26-164 **'Regulation of Lawful Tetrahydrocannabinol Beverages' regulates the production and sale of THC beverages by limiting the amount of THC content to 10 milligrams per can, prohibits the use of synthetic cannabinoids, and requires extensive testing and labeling on these products. With this, it also requires that only licensed wholesalers receive distributions and limits retail sales. While this bill increases regulations on this sector, it also increases availability to consumers. Given the current outlook of our State's drug problems, I fundamentally believe increasing access to marijuana products is detrimental to our communities and for this reason I oppose SB26-164. This bill will be heard in the Senate Finance Committee next week on Tuesday, if you are interested in testifying you can sign up** here**.**

SB26-161 **'Modernize Regulation of Cannabis-Related Products' changes the tax structure of marijuana products from a 15 percent sales tax to a system which bases sales tax amount on the potency of the cannabinoids. This policy would change sales tax for edibles to be $0.12 per milligram of THC and be $0.04 for concentrates and flowers. Additionally, this policy transfers the responsibility of regulation from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Public Health and Environment. This policy is bad because it creates fiscal uncertainty and risks revenue collection shortages or over-surpluses, this is a covert way to increase taxes collected on marijuana sales in the long run while diverting tax revenue allotted to public schools, health programs, and local governments. This policy will also be heard in the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday next week if you are interested in testifying you can sign up** here**.**

SB26-070 **'Ban Government Access Historical Location Information Database' prohibits government agencies from accessing an individual's or their vehicle's location information history and removes this information from being subject to the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA). While I support limited government structure, I disagree with this**

policy because it prevents law enforcement officers from performing everyday tasks and hinders their ability to keep the public safe. This bill creates restrictions that would impede law enforcement's ability to locate wanted criminals. Overall, this bill prioritizes rigid statutory requirements over practical investigative timelines, increasing the likelihood of delays, lost evidence, and unresolved cases. SB26-070 was scheduled to be heard in the Senate Chamber for Second Reading on Thursday, but was postponed until next week.

Senator John Evans

On Wednesday, former State Senator John Evans came to visit the Capitol. First elected in 1998, John represented Senate District 30 which included Parker, until 2006. It was great to spend some time together on the Senate floor!

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,

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