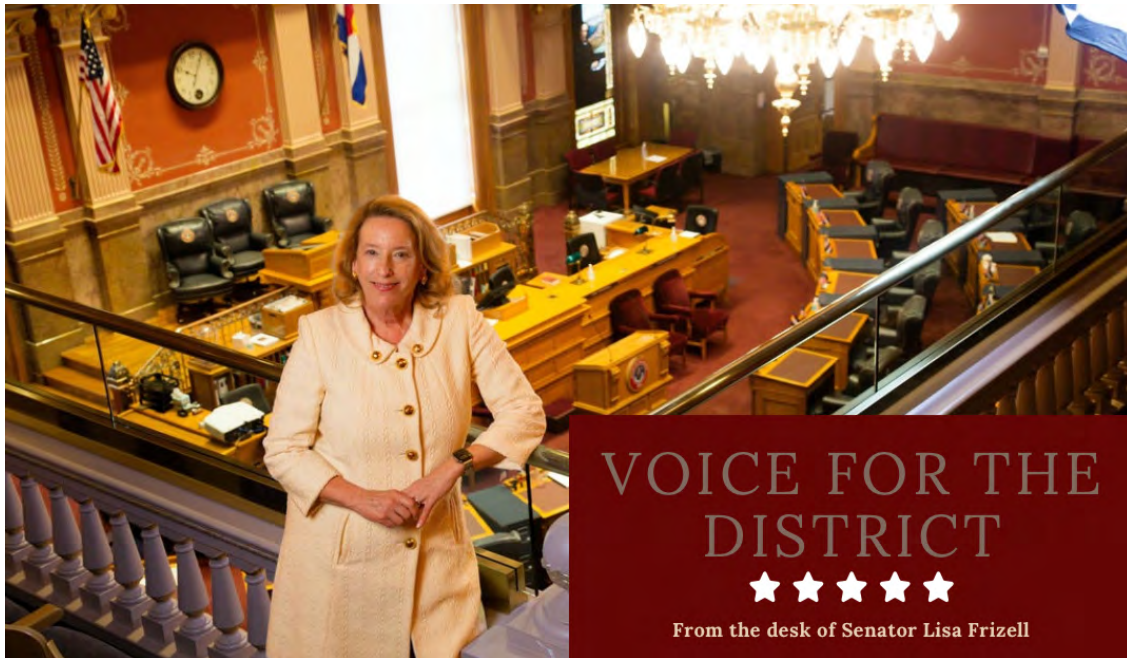




LISA
FRIZELL
SENATE DISTRICT 2



2026 Legislative Session

Week Twelve - A Short Senate Week

Greetings Lori,

Happy (almost) Easter! I hope you are enjoying the spring weather. It has been a busy week for me with four bills heard in committees, a bill signing with the Governor, radio interviews and important awareness events – all before Good Friday even begins! After all the activity, I'm looking forward to a restful Easter weekend. Please read on for more updates.

Another Week of Layovers

Each day, the Senate Calendar contains General Orders to be completed, including Second Reading of Bills. As I've discussed in the last few newsletters, again this week most of the calendared bills were laid over. On Monday, 7 out of 12 Second Reading bills were postponed, on Tuesday 6 out of

7, Wednesday 4 out of 8, and on Thursday 3 out of 5 bills were delayed to next week. This is both good and bad -on the positive side, the more backed-up the calendar becomes, more bills will fall off the calendar at the end of session. Conversely, we will have to deal with an extraordinarily heavy calendar of bills in the last few weeks. With only five and a half weeks left, our time is limited!



I am pleased to share that [SB26-011](#) 'Search Warrants Provided to Covered Platforms' was signed into law by Governor Polis on Monday. With numerous families and supporters present for the bill signing, it was a true celebration of success. I am so grateful to everyone who supported this legislation that will assist law enforcement in gathering important crime information from social media companies. For more info, please see the article published by [Denver Today](#) or [Colorado Newswire](#).



On Tuesday, I joined Jeff Hunt and Bill Thorpe on their radio show to discuss the resignation of Kim Bimestefer – former Executive Director of HCPF. Please click [here](#) to listen to our conversation broadcasted at 710 KNUS-AM!

My Bill Updates

[HB26-1050](#) ‘Optional Individualized Readiness Plan for School’ passed Third Reading in the Senate this week and will soon be headed to the Governor’s office. This bill simply makes it optional for school districts to create plans for students who score proficiently in their Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. I ran this bill at the behest of our own Douglas County School District, and it will free up kindergarten teachers to spend quality time with their students.

[HB26-1234](#) ‘Access to Record of Child Abuse or Neglect’ passed unanimously in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday and was placed on the Consent Calendar where it passed Second Reading. This bill provides much needed language to ensure survivors have easy access to their own case records.

[SB26-140](#) ‘Exempt Drugs from Prescription Drug Affordability Board Reviews’ was heard in the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on Thursday and passed to be sent to the Committee of the Whole. This bill ensures that patients will not face interruptions in their essential medications due to regulatory pricing decisions. By protecting medications designed to treat rare diseases from the Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) review, this bill guarantees continuity of care, preserves access to life-saving treatments, and sends a clear message that patient health comes first. This legislation is being brought in response to advocacy from the rare disease community, as families worry that their access to necessary medications could be negatively impacted.

[SB26-144](#) 'Modify Property Tax Lien Sales Treasurer Deeds & Fees' was heard in the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday and passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0. This bill makes it easier for property owners, investors, and counties to navigate tax lien foreclosures. This bill was brought by county treasurers across Colorado, and creates clearer expectations for tax lien investors and protections for property owners.

[HB26-1244](#) 'Department of Public Health and Environment Nursing Home Penalty Fund' passed through the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on Thursday. HB26-1244 is a technical fix to align the state's Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund with updated federal guidelines that control how the fund can be used. The money in the cash fund is a result of federally levied fines on nursing homes in Colorado. With the passage of this bill, the fund can now be used to provide statewide training of nurses working in nursing homes and for tuition reimbursement for those seeking a career in nursing.



Colorado Denim Day

April is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I am grateful to be the Senate co-prime sponsor of [HJR26-1025](#) which designates April 29th, 2026 as Colorado Denim Day. On Wednesday, the Capitol participated by wearing jeans as a visible symbol of protest against attitudes condoning

sexual assault. The Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault ([CCASA](#)) serves as a voice for survivors, and has worked with the General Assembly to pass laws that provide protection and support – I was able to meet with a few of their advocates pictured here. Since 2013, CCASA has hosted Colorado Denim Day to recognize the strength of survivors and highlight failures of the justice and legal system to respond meaningfully to sexual violence.

Budget Update

The introduction of the Long Bill has been delayed a week, and will not be in the Senate until April 13th. Recent actions in the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) reflect a mix of budget balancing, program adjustments, and targeted policy changes. There has been an emphasis on freeing up General Fund dollars and managing the declining Marijuana Tax Cash Fund revenue.

Most notably, there will be a transfer of \$130 million from Proposition 123 dollars to the General Fund. At a time when housing affordability is a top concern for Coloradans, this cut to an affordable housing fund –approved by voters seems to be a poor choice. Democrats claim to be focused on reducing spending while preserving core services, but taxpayer dollars continue to be spent carelessly.

Corrections, behavioral health, and caseload-driven services remain pressure points in the budget. The committee has deferred, or partially funded large obligations such as prison capacity, competency services, and community corrections. The Governor's Office continues to push for large-scale solutions, while the JBC often opts for incremental or delayed implementation of newer benefits.

Overall, recent actions reflect a balancing strategy built on fund shifts, targeted cuts, and delayed commitments rather than the sweeping reductions necessary to correct the structural deficit.



Donor Awareness Month

Flag Raising at Cimarron Middle School

April is recognized as National Donate Life Month! I was honored to attend a flag raising event at Cimarron Middle School dedicated to organ, eye, and tissue donors and their families. It was amazing to see the compassion of young students' and their willingness to make an impact in the lives of others. Thank you to [Donor Alliance](#) for bringing this community together to honor the legacy of donors who have provided hope and healing to so many in our state. I was joined by Parker Mayor Joshua Rivero, City Councilmembers Brandi Wilks and Erik Frandsen, as well as the wonderful students and staff of Cimarron Middle School.



Bad Bills:

[SB26-146](#) ‘Restrict Single-Use Food Serviceware Distribution’ is an extension of the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act and prohibits restaurants from providing customers with single-use serviceware -- including napkins, straws, lids, cup sleeves, trays, and condiments unless directly requested by the patron. This policy would put restrictions on local businesses and diminish the consumer experience of patrons dining in restaurants. The bill will be heard in the Senate Health & Human Services committee on April 16th.

[HB26-1071](#) ‘Local Government Vehicle Identification System on Interstate Highways’ allows city, county, or municipality governments access to the Automated Vehicle Identification System (AVIS) on federal highways. This policy is a direct violation of citizen’s privacy rights, risks data breaches, and can create inconsistencies of enforcement across jurisdictions. Lawmakers should carefully consider whether this expansion of AVIS usage strikes the right balance between improving traffic safety outcomes and respecting the privacy expectations of Colorado drivers. This bill has been scheduled for Second Reading in the Senate but continues to be laid-over.

[SB26-115](#) ‘ Post-Conviction Relief for Certain Offenders’ gives criminals a chance to petition for a re-sentence to the court if the crime was committed when the offender was under 21 and if the offender already served at least 20 years for that crime or if the offender is 60 years or older when filing the petition and served at least 20 years for that crime.

This bill is not only bad, it's dangerous because it does not consider the severity of the original crime, only age and prior time spent incarcerated. Allowing these criminals to be re-sentenced also harms victims as they heal and try to move forward. It is important to note that crimes resulting in prison sentences over 20 years are classified as 'crimes of violence' such as first-degree murder, first-degree kidnapping, arson, or aggravated robbery. This bill passed through the Senate Judiciary on party lines, and is now awaiting a hearing in Appropriations.

[HB26-1084](#) 'Voter Transparency in Ballot Measures' requires certain information be in the title of citizen-initiated measures when the fiscal impact of such measure is not clearly identified. This title must include the three most-likely impacted sectors of the budget if the policy were to be passed. While this bill seems like an attempt to empower voters with making educated decisions, adding this information risks making the ballot measure confusing to voters. With this, a small board of people would be in charge of determining which bills would need this additional information which gives power to this group to interfere with election results when certain language is used that triggers bias. This is another bill being laid-over on the Senate Calendar for Second Reading.

[HB26-1208](#) 'Sunset Compliance Advisory Panel Air Pollution' continues the Compliance Advisory Panel to the Air Pollution Control Division in the Department of Public Health and Environment through September 1st, 2036. There has been a lack of interest in this panel since 2014 due to frequent turnover and delays in the appointment process. While it is intended to assist small businesses with compliance under federal air quality requirements, it has not met since January of 2020. By extending the life of this dormant panel for another decade, this bill reflects the broader pattern in state government of maintaining committees that provide little real-world value. Extending this panel without reform sends a message to Colorado taxpayers – lawmakers prioritize wasteful government structures over tangible results and meaningful work that actually serves its intended purpose. This bill was heard in the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee and passed on party lines.

[HB26-1107](#) 'Health Care in Regulated Facilities' mandates that CDPHE develop a care facility form, specifically for dementia care facilities. This form is to be distributed to potential patients and residents in order to inform families on the facilities security measures and care practices. Enforcing this form can place a burden on care facilities, especially the

smaller ones operating in our state. If a facility does not comply with the provisions of the bill, such as failing to update forms, they may receive a citation which could be detrimental to those already facing operational challenges. This bill has already changed drastically since being introduced in the House, with the sponsors striking most of the bill to address stakeholder concerns. Dementia care facilities in Colorado are already struggling to fully meet patients' needs, and lawmakers should not be adding further administrative burdens. This bill passed through the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on party lines and is now headed to the Committee of the Whole.

[HB26-1045](#) 'Disabilities Housing Protections' defines an assistance animal to include both service animals and emotional support animals, and creates a reasonable accommodation as the right of a disabled individual to live in dwellings without being denied access. This bill creates sweeping presumptions – any prohibition against these animals is discriminatory – that significantly weakens the ability of housing providers to manage their own properties. Overall, this is an unnecessary expansion of state housing mandates that may impose new costs and liabilities on landlords while encouraging individuals to abuse the designation of emotional support animals. HB26-1045 will be heard in the Senate Local Government & Housing Committee on April 9th.

[SB26-116](#) 'Property Tax Modifications' allows municipalities to create a municipal lodging tax with voter approval, and requires that governments consider the income that lodging properties earn from room rentals and resort fees when assessing their worth. Further, this bill caps the state property tax exemption for business personal property at \$60,000 without an inflation adjustment. While I agree with the idea that taxes should require voter consent, this particular provision could make it more difficult for local governments to regulate lodging properties and would result in millions of dollars in lost revenue. This bill proposes to increase the BPPT exemption, hold it flat going forward, and eliminate the state backfill. Local governments and special districts that rely heavily on business personal property tax revenues would see a significant reduction in funding. This bill will be heard in Senate Finance on April 7th.

Good Bills:

[HB26-1295](#) 'Repeal of Obsolete Statutory Requirements' gets rid of

reporting requirements that have already been fulfilled but do not contain a future repeal date. By revoking these entities that have fulfilled their statutory requirements, this bill streamlines our state statutes and reduces unnecessary measures that take up potential time and resources. This bill passed unanimously through the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee and will be placed on the Consent Calendar.

[SB26-090](#) ‘Exempt Critical Infrastructure from Right to Repair’ narrows the scope of Colorado’s [Consumer Repair Bill of Rights Act](#) by exempting information technology equipment, and aligning the definition of “critical infrastructure” with federal law. This bill provides statutory clarity to critical infrastructure systems, safeguarding them from sabotage, cyberterrorism attacks, or improper servicing. This exemption from right-to-repair mandates is a responsible step to strengthen cybersecurity and ensure the continued reliability of systems that Colorado communities depend on. After being heard in the Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee, this bill passed unanimously and will be headed to the Senate floor.

[HB26-1200](#) ‘Armed Services Member Motor Vehicle Taxes & Fees’ removes the requirement that a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, while serving outside of the United States, sign an affidavit to receive certain exemptions from paying motor vehicle taxes and fees. This simple bill eliminates bureaucratic hurdles that negatively impact our service members. Existing documentation requirements are sufficient and the affidavit is an unnecessary burden for servicemembers. The Senate passed this bill on Third Reading with a 35-0 vote.

[HB26-1023](#) ‘Political Party Liability for Accessibility Requirements’ expands on [HB24-1067](#) that required the caucus process be accessible to people with disabilities through a video conferencing platform or other means of participation. Failure to make a reasonable effort to comply with accessibility requirements constitutes discrimination based on disability in a place of public accommodation and the political party is subject to legal relief. An individual, however, cannot be held responsible for violating the caucus requirements. This bill helps protect volunteers from lawsuits by clarifying compliance is the political party’s responsibility. The Senate passed HB26-1023 on Third Reading with a unanimous vote.



Fort Lewis College Students

It was great to welcome students to the Senate on Thursday from Fort Lewis College's Indigenous Policy Institute! This student-focused initiative is designed to encourage advocacy, research, and leadership in Indigenous policy.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Frizell".

Lisa Frizell

Assistant Minority Leader

Senate District 2

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