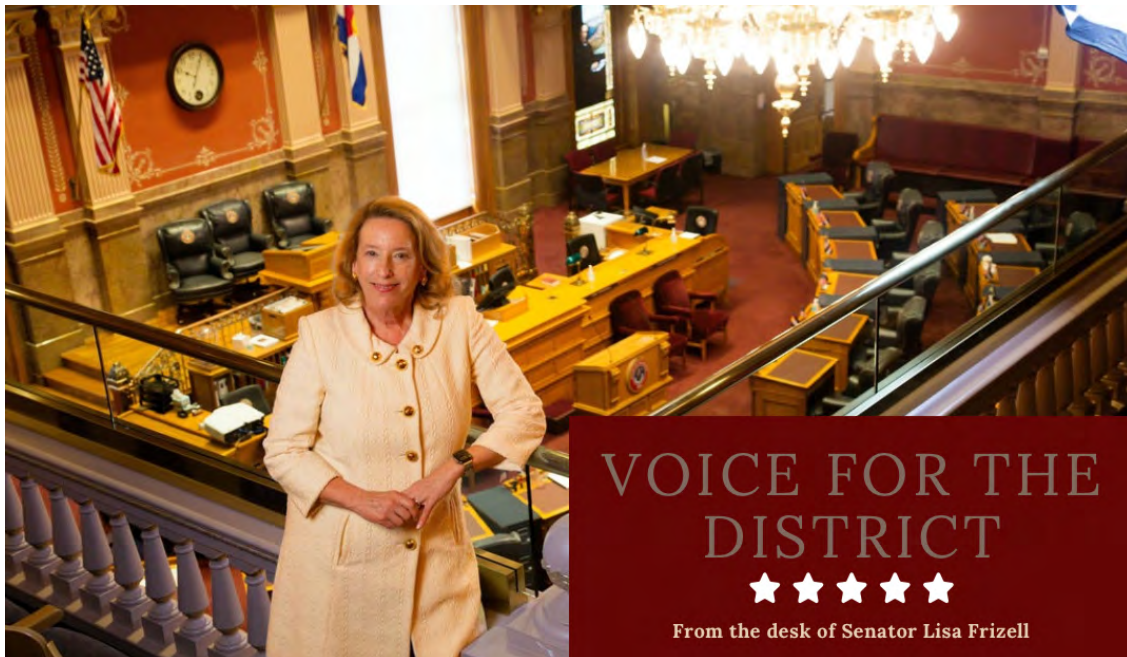




2026 Legislative Session

Week Sixteen - The Clock's Ticking!

Greetings Kevin,

The session is coming to an end, with today marking the 108th day out of 120. With a current total of 602 introduced bills, there are 29 fewer bills than at this point in the 2025 session. In the Senate alone, 120 bills are pending action and we are racing to get through every committee meeting, floor fight, and vote in two weeks time. I have had several late bills introduced, and will be busy advancing them through committees in this final stretch. Please read on for more updates on important legislation from this week.

I joined The Ross Kaminsky Show on Tuesday morning to share an update on the 2026 session. Please tune in to our conversation [here](#)!

My Bill Updates

[HB26-1317](#) ‘Unified Postsecondary Talent Development Systems’ is an important bill that is the beginning of a larger effort toward efficiency in state government. I frequently speak on the bloat that’s occurred over time in our state —not in small part due to redundant programs having been created in multiple departments. Just one example of this is “workforce development”. This bill creates the Transition Advisory Committee to integrate the Department of Higher Education and the myriad of workforce development programs under one department umbrella. Duties of the committee include making recommendations on the structure and functions of the reimaged Department of Higher Education which will be due on November 1st of this year. This bill will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on Monday, May 4th. If you are interested in testifying, you can sign up [here](#).

[HB26-1290](#) ‘Criminal Offense of Assault’ increases penalties for repeat strangulation offenders in Colorado. This legislation focuses on ensuring victims of violence are treated with the seriousness they deserve – prior strangulation convictions are associated with a dramatic risk of future homicide by the same offender. Enhanced penalties for repeat offenders improve accountability and the opportunity to save lives. This bill ensures that a very specific group of violent criminals - those who have already been convicted of strangulation, gone through the legal process, and returned to the same near-lethal behavior - are held responsible for their

actions. Data from the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board shows that strangulation-related deaths accounted for over 8% of domestic violence fatalities in 2024. I am proud to sponsor this necessary change to Colorado law, that was actually initiated by the Town of Parker, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and the 23rd Judicial District. HB26-1290 passed in the Senate Chamber unanimously this week and heads to the Governor's desk.

[HB26-1075](#) 'Child Welfare Prevention Services Funding' acknowledges Colorado counties' investments in proven programs and their work to stretch existing child welfare resources further. Interestingly, cost efficiency created by counties has historically been retained by the State. This policy increases funding for child welfare prevention services and programs at the county level by allowing those jurisdictions to reap the financial benefit of their own innovation. HB26-1075 ensures children are protected and safe while maintaining a balanced budget. The Senate Health and Human Services Committee will hear this policy next week on May 7th. If you are interested in testifying, sign up [here](#).

[SB26-162](#) 'Sensitive Test Results in Health Care', which was discussed at length in my previous newsletter, ensures that patients hear about cancer test results directly from their physician, rather than having the information posted immediately to a patient portal. The policy gives 72 hours for the doctor to reach out to the patient and have a conversation about the results. I have received a lot of feedback on this bill – both from people who think this is a long overdue change to patient portals, and those who would prefer to have the ability to access their test results without any discussion with their physician. The bill passed through the Senate this week and will head to the House where we will introduce an amendment to ensure that both options are available. Shaun Boyd with CBS did a nice piece on SB26-162 this week, further explaining my intentions for introducing this bill. Please click [here](#) to access the video portion which is available to watch in the right upper corner of the article!

[SB26-049](#) 'Homeowner Natural Disaster Mitigation' as amended creates an income tax deduction for contributions to a catastrophe savings account - a savings account for homeowners used to cover insurance deductibles and property-specific mitigation. This policy is brought by property and casualty insurance carriers and the Colorado Chamber of Commerce as a means to help homeowners lower their insurance rates -which have increased at a ridiculous rate over the last few years. The policy

acknowledges that paying the 10% - 25% premium to upgrade to an impact resistant roof reduces insurance rates and provides a financial incentive to homeowners to save for the upgrade in advance. Due to state budget restrictions SB26-049 was postponed indefinitely this week in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Last week, I spoke with CBS about SB26-135 as the Senate debated the bill on Second Reading. Please take a look at the article [here](#)!



[Denver Summit FC](#) visited the Capitol on Monday to be recognized with an official proclamation celebrating their impact on youth development, teamwork, and strong community values. It was great to meet some of the professional women soccer players, and the team captain, Janine Sonis, who is a Douglas County resident and grew up in Parker. Congratulations for this well-deserved acknowledgement!

Good Bills:

[SB26-045](#) 'Nuclear Workforce Development & Education Program' promotes employment opportunities in the nuclear sector by creating dedicated programs and councils in certain high-education facilities, and establishes a grant program for higher-education related to nuclear energy. This bill also requires that the cash fund reaches at least \$500,000

before grants can be awarded to institutions. This is a good policy that focuses on continuing research and innovation in nuclear energy while responsibly funding the program. SB26-045 passed through the Senate this week and is headed to the House.

[HB26-1052](#) 'Rights for Victims of Certain Crimes' expands protections for victims by aiming to ensure they are properly informed, and have rights that protect their safety and well-being. With this, it requires the district attorney to notify victims if a crime laboratory employee acted wrongfully regarding a crime against the victim. This policy also allows victims to request anonymity in court records by referring to the victim under a shortened name or request the court hearing occur as a restitution assessment hearing - a court proceeding to determine how much money a convicted criminal owes the victim. This is a positive addition to the Victims Rights Act that prioritizes victims of crimes rather than criminals. The Senate passed this bill unanimously on Thursday and it will be sent to the Governor's office.

[SB26-173](#) 'Barre & Pilates Teacher Training Regulatory Exemptions' exempts teacher-training programs from regulation under the Private Occupational Education Act of 1981. This bill will lower costs and barriers as schools offering these programs will no longer have to pay state regulatory fees or comply with onerous administration requirements. I support this bill because it reduces government oversight as well as the state's workload, making it easier for small businesses to contribute to the economy in this sector. This bill passed unanimously through the Senate Education Committee on Monday and as well as through the Senate on the Consent Calendar.

My Position on the Front Range Passenger Rail

[SB26-172](#) 'Front Range Passenger Rail District' changes the guidelines and operations of the Front Range passenger rail district to remove certain municipalities, require board members to be residents in their representing areas, allows the board to create sub-districts, and changes the method for determining distribution of election costs to match the distributions in other state and local elections. The plan for an interconnected passenger rail system along the Interstate 25 corridor was implemented by [SB21-238](#) which authorized the district to seek voter approval to levy taxes, assessments, or bonds to fund development, construction, and operation. While I oppose this idea as a whole, this bill provides a revised district boundary that is

advantageous to Douglas County residents. This bill was heard in the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee on Monday and then passed through the Committee of the Whole on Second Reading.

Bad Bills:

[HB26-1269](#) 'Transit Access' requires that certain transit agencies utilize multi-language information, access to restroom amenities, provide additional information to riders, and provide riders with reporting requirements in an effort to boost ridership. This policy aims at increasing transit use but does not address why ridership is so low - safety concerns and unreliable service. In addition, it creates several new restrictions that transit agencies must follow with indefinite oversight. In 2025, RTD collected \$1.26 Billion in total revenue, with only 4.8% deriving from passenger fares. Taxpayers are responsible for fronting the other 95.2% with \$869 million coming from sales & use tax. This is a poorly drafted bill that doesn't address the true issues causing lack of ridership, but wastes taxpayer money by forcing transit departments to follow these new requirements. This policy will be heard in the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee on May 4th.

[HB26-1113](#) 'Modifications to Elections' alters Colorado's election laws in numerous areas. These many changes include increasing the number of days before an election that ballots must be submitted by, requiring county clerks to report to the Secretary of State about excess wait times and delays with a timeline by which county clerks must adapt these modifications, setting additional communication standards for higher education concerning voting resources, and much more. These new mandates increase centralized oversight of our election system, which is already incredibly accessible. Additional regulations create administrative burdens while doing little to increase voter access or transparency. This bill also changes timeline standards for election poll booths which restrict counties from adjusting operations based on voting patterns. Lawmakers should be cautious about imposing new mandates that add complexity without clear necessity. This bill was heard on Second Reading on Friday and passed after vigorous opposition by the Minority caucus.

[HB26-1210](#) 'Prohibit Surveillance Price and Wage Setting' prohibits discrimination against a consumer or worker through the use of price or

wage setting algorithms (PWSAs). Any companies that do use price or wage setting algorithms must publish all information they collected and provide this information to a worker or consumer upon request. This bill is concerning for several reasons – restricting the use of data and technology in making decisions limits the tools that businesses need to price products competitively and determine employee wages. In addition, the policy takes a broad approach that severely restricts pro-consumer practices such as personalized coupons and student discounts. This bill would create more burdens for businesses to navigate and completely upend the systems that are currently used. This bill was supposed to be heard in the Senate on Friday but was laid over to next week.

[SB26-178](#) ‘Health Insurance Affordability Measures’ modifies the Health Insurance Affordability Act to continue funding health insurance programs for the State’s reinsurance program, On-Exchange Subsidies (think Connect for Health) and Omni Salud. It creates a new one-time revenue stream through the sale of \$100 million in bonds and charges a \$40 million supplemental fee to health insurance carriers. This is a horrible policy that forces higher premiums on group and individual insurance market participants -while providing health insurance for illegal immigrants. It also creates bond debt that the State must repay. SB26-178 passed through the Senate Finance committee and will be heard next in Appropriations.

[HB26-1346](#) ‘Transfer of Unsold Insurance Premium Tax Credits’ is a response to two bills that were passed during the special session last August as an attempt to remedy the budget shortfall. For FY 2025-26 [HB25B-1004](#) and [HB25B-1006](#) required the State Treasurer to sell up to \$250 million in tax credit certificates to insurance companies with a minimum floor sale price of \$.80 on the dollar. This equated to a short-term cash infusion that would reduce state revenue over a three year time frame. HB26-1346 addresses the problem that was created by a large number of tax credits being made available for purchase in a short window of time by only a specific industry –they can’t sell them all. Oops. The bill allows for the remaining unsold tax credits (\$30 - \$45 million depending on who you ask) to be bought by a “bridge purchaser” who can then re-sell to insurance companies at a later date. By making tax credits tradable assets, some of their value is redirected to private profit rather than their intended public purposes. This bill was passed in the Senate Finance committee on Tuesday, and then passed on Second Reading.

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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Assistant Minority Leader

Senate District 2

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