

March 09, 2015



<http://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-tracker-votes/0/391/2015/0/>

"Quality is not an act, it is a habit." - Aristotle

**Days Til Siene Die: 58**

**Colorado lawmakers seeking legislative aid for the middle class**

*The Denver Post*

Dozens of Colorado legislators from both parties stood together Thursday afternoon at the Capitol to tell the middle class that help is on the way. Lawmakers have introduced four bills so far to help people prepare for and get better-paying jobs, with six more to be introduced soon. The package would give employers financial incentives to take on interns and apprentices and would develop programs that coordinate high schools and colleges with companies willing to help train and eventually employ workers, bill sponsors said.

**Hullinghorst: construction defects bill 'non-starter'**

*The Colorado Statesman*

This week marks the halfway point of the 120-day legislative session, and House and Senate leadership called upon the press to show off their accomplishments and talk agendas for the next 60 days.

Speaker of the House Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, D-Boulder, kicked off two days worth of meetings with reporters on Wednesday morning, discussing the budget and bills that will set up the last half of the 2015 session.

Topping that agenda: the rollout this week of a package of 10 bipartisan bills on workforce development. Hullinghorst said the package pushes forward plans made by majority Democrats in the House to help small business and the middle class.

**Bipartisan Coalition Advances Workforce Development Bills**

*The Office of CACI*

Yesterday, a bipartisan group of state legislators including House Majority Leader Crisanta Duran (D-Denver) and Senate President Bill Cadman (R-Colorado Springs) hosted a press conference to introduce a package of bills designed to strengthen Colorado's workforce for a variety of industries including manufacturing.

**What incentives Colorado offers filmmakers to lure them here**

*Denver Business Journal*

The Hollywood Reporter has a look at how Colorado and other states are trying to woo the film industry away from Hollywood. The industry trade journal reports Colorado offers filmmakers a 20 percent incentive, in the form of rebates, but requires production companies spend so much money in order to qualify. For Colorado-based production companies, the minimum is $100,000. For production companies outside of the state, the minimum has to reach $1 million.

**Supreme Court allows challenge to Colorado Internet tax**

*The Gazette*

A unanimous Supreme Court says federal courts have the authority to rule in a dispute over Colorado's Internet tax law. The ruling Tuesday is a win for business groups that want to challenge the state's so-called "Amazon tax" that requires extensive reporting by retailers that don't collect the state's 2.9 percent sales tax from Colorado customers. Online retailers challenged the law, claiming it violates protections for companies doing business in other states. A federal court agreed that the law violates the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

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**At legislative midpoint, Gov. John Hickenlooper faces crucial test**

*The Denver Post*

Gov. John Hickenlooper is diligently courting lawmakers and pushing a legislative agenda as part of a more hands-on approach to the General Assembly this session. The strategy, evident as the session nears the halfway point Saturday, marks a departure for a governor who often tries to remain above the fray of lawmaking. Part of a broader rebound, the effort also involves rekindling relationships with Republican lawmakers after alienating them in the two prior sessions. "The governor was pretty clear in his State of the State about the things he wants to get out of the legislature," said Alan Salazar, the governor's chief strategist, who said the outreach is more "substantive and frequent" than in any other session.

**Denver proposes crackdown on unlicensed grows' pot plant limits**

*The Denver Post*

The city of Denver is proposing changes that would limit unlicensed, non-residential marijuana cultivations to 36 plants. The officials behind the proposed change, which would chiefly affect over-sized collective grows and caregivers with a large number of plants, hope the amendment would make for safer conditions, clearer law enforcement options and fewer opportunities for untracked marijuana to escape into the black or gray markets. The City Council's Safety and Well-being Committee unanimously approved the proposal Tuesday, but members including Robin Kniech and Albus Brooks voiced worry that the rules don't go far enough. The unlicensed, non-residential grows exist in the cracks of Colorado's marijuana legalization amendments, and they suggested exploring a new kind of licensing for those that are allowed by state regulations.

**Recreational marijuana lawsuit: Colorado sheriffs and prosecutors challenge Amendment 64**

*The Denver Post*

Sheriffs and prosecutors from across Colorado filed a lawsuit Thursday in Denver federal district court challenging the constitutionality of Colorado's Amendment 64 that legalized marijuana use in Colorado. "This suit is about one thing - the rule of law," Larimer County Sheriff Justin Smith said in a news release Thursday. "The Colorado Constitution mandates that all elected officials, including sheriffs, swear an oath of office to uphold both the United States as well as the Colorado Constitutions." Gov. John Hickenlooper was named as the defendant in the lawsuit. Amendment 64 established a new right under the state constitution to engage in an activity that is in violation of federal laws, he said.

**Colorado's economy isn't No. 1 anymore, but it's still pretty high in Business Insider ranking**

*Denver Business Journal*

"Colorado, like many western states, has a disproportionately large oil and mining sector," Business Insider notes. "With Denver's central location between the densely populated coasts making the city a natural hub, air transportation and telecommunications also have an outsize share of Colorado's employment." Business Insider based its rankings on six measures: recent changes in housing prices, non-farm payroll job growth, unemployment rate, GDP per capita, average weekly wage, and state government surplus and deficit.

**Student data privacy bill passes Senate Education Committee**

*The Denver Post*

Technology companies would be prohibited from sharing, mining, selling or using student data to peddle products under a bipartisan bill that cleared a Senate committee Thursday on a 9-0 vote. But fractures appeared over an amendment backed by Republicans and activist mothers that would require software and other data merchants to discard student information after three years. Democrats on the Senate Education Committee questioned whether that would undermine the collaboration behind the bill and require school districts to build costly systems to house data longer.

**Cheaper generic biotech drugs loom as 'biosimilars' law advances in Colorado Legislature**

*Denver Business Journal*

On Friday, March 6th the FDA approved the first generic version of a biotech drug for domestic sale just hours after the Colorado State Legislature struggled with how to let pharmacists handle cheaper biotech drug knockoffs. Colorado is among several states considering proposals to let pharmacists substitute FDA-approved biotech generics -- known as "biosimilars" -- for name-brand drugs that are prescribed by a doctor.

**"FAMLI" Bill Finally Introduced: Déjà Vu All Over Again**

*The Office of CACI*

Last year, a Democratic bill to create a worker-funded, State-administered insurance program to provide family-and-medical leave died at the end of the session in the Democratic-controlled Senate. The "short title," of the measure was "family and medical leave insurance," hence the bill was known as the FAMLI bill.

**Colorado TechHire Launches Today - Colorado Technology Association a partner during White House presentation**

*Colorado Technology Association Press Release*

Washington D.C. & Denver CO - (Monday, March 9, 2015) - Representative Dan Pabon (DCO), in partnership with The White House, Colorado private industry leaders, and Colorado state agencies announced today that Colorado is one of twenty pilot regions across the country to launch TechHire. This bold public-private initiative, set forth by President Obama, aims to identify, connect and train individuals seeking to learn new technology skills, particularly computer programming. This training would come through universities and community colleges as well as nontraditional approaches like "coding boot camps," and high-quality online courses that can rapidly train workers for a good-paying job, often in just a few months.

TechHire aligns Representative Pabon's vision for a skilled and qualified workforce in Colorado with President Obama's national economic agenda. "We have to think big and think differently about training the workforce of the 21st century. TechHire is a challenge to bring public and private leaders together to train skilled workers into high demand jobs," Representative Pabon said. America has over half a million job openings in fields like software development, network administration, and cyber security, many of which did not even exist just a decade ago. This program supports opportunities that prepare people for these technology jobs.

Partners in TechHire include the Colorado Technology Association (CTA), the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment (CDLE). "We are thrilled that TechHire has chosen Colorado as one of their pilot regions, and know it will provide a great path for Coloradans to access high-demand jobs quickly, meet critical needs for our businesses, and help strengthen our economy," said Fiona Arnold, Executive Director of OEDIT.

Working closely with training programs like SeedPaths, a coding and app school, and Swiftpage, a Colorado-based industry leader in business solutions, TechHire will help create a pipeline for success from skills development into internships, apprenticeships, and job placement in great paying careers.

"At Swiftpage, our focus has been getting the next generation of the workforce interested in and excited about careers in technology. Initiatives like TechHire will allow us to take that a step further. It's never too early or too late to develop the skills needed for these high tech jobs" said CEO John Oechsle. Swiftpage has sponsored after school programs and worked with high schools to train students from a young age. Likewise, in its first four boot camps in 2014, over 80 percent of SeedPaths graduates found a job within 90 days of graduating, and enjoyed an average of a 240% increase in pay over their previous jobs. "I am incredibly excited that our team has been able to build a game-changing company that helps people of all ages and backgrounds find tremendous success in the IT industry," said Jeff Macco, CEO of SeedPaths. Along with this office, the Colorado Technology Association, and its network of 600+ employers, SeedPaths will work to expand hiring and apprenticeships.

As CTA's Foundation works to build the tech talent pipeline of the future, initiatives like TechHire will help pave the way on a national stage. CTA members will learn more about TechHire and other workforce programs at an Industry Briefing on April 1st at 7:30am. Media is invited to attend.

**Colorado Creative Industries announces 2015 Poetry Out Loud state champion**

*Office of OEDIT*

On, Monday, March 9, 2015 from a competitive field of 26 students across the state, Jeana Lovett from Liberty High School in Colorado Springs, CO received the title of 2015 Poetry Out Loud Colorado State Champion at the state finals held in Lakewood, CO on March 3, 2015.

Lovett's final of three recitations was "La Figlia Che Piange" by T.S. Eliot, for which a panel of judges awarded her the top Colorado Poetry Out Loud prize. "La Figlia Che Piange," meaning "young girl weeping," is the final poem in T.S. Eliot's 1917 work Prufrock and Other Observations. Eight guest judges evaluated student performances on criteria including physical presence, evidence of understanding, level of complexity and accuracy.

Lovett received an award of $200 and an all expenses paid trip to Washington, DC, to compete for the national championship. Her school received a $500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. First runner-up TaShaiya Henderson of Thornton High School received $100, with $200 for her school library.

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of poetry by offering educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high schools across the country. Beginning at the classroom level, winners advance to a school-wide competition, then to the state competition, and ultimately to the National Finals in Washington, DC. Over 365,000 students from more than 2,300 high schools took part in last year's Poetry Out Loud program.

Supporters can cheer-on Lovett at the national finals on April 28-29, 2015 through a live webcast at www.arts.gov. Fans can also host a Poetry Out Loud Webcast Viewing Party to learn more about the art of poetry recitation. Register at www.arts.gov/partnerships/poetryoutloud and find tips on hosting your party, promotional materials, and details on other viewing parties around the country.

Poetry Out Loud gives students an opportunity to master public speaking skills, build self confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. To find out how to get involved in the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest, visit www.poetryoutloud.org.

**About the National Endowment for the Arts**

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than $5 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. To join the discussion on how art works, visit the NEA at arts.gov.

**About the Poetry Foundation**

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. It exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. The Poetry Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery, and encouraging new kinds of poetry through innovative literary prizes and programs. For more information, please visit www.poetryfoundation.org

**About Colorado Creative Industries**

Colorado Creative Industries, Colorado's state arts agency, is a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. Established to capitalize on the immense potential for our creative sector to enhance economic growth in Colorado, the mission of Colorado Creative Industries is to promote, support and expand the creative industries to drive Colorado's economy, grow jobs and enhance our quality of life.

**Lt. Gov. Garcia hosts Read Across America Day celebration in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday to promote early literacy**

*Office of The Governor*

On Monday, March 2, 2015 Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia joined more than 45 million participants across the nation for the National Education Association's 18th annual Read Across America Day celebration today as part of the Colorado Reads: Early Literacy Initiative.

The festivities celebrated the legacy of Dr. Seuss with Garcia reading Oh the Places You'll Go and a special rhyming proclamation at the Capitol to second grade students from Clyde Miller Elementary School. "Read Across America Day is a great way to raise awareness about the importance of literacy for policy makers but, more importantly, a way to emphasize that reading is fun both for children and adults" said Garcia. "Dr. Seuss has an extraordinary ability to bring parents and children together to strengthen family bonds while developing a lifelong love of books." In addition to the celebration of Dr. Seuss, Garcia shared the outcomes of the One Book 4 Colorado program, the statewide initiative that offers free copies of the same book to every 4-year-old in Colorado in English and in Spanish. In 2014, 75,000 copies of the book selection, Grumpy Bird by Jeremy Tankard, were given away at more than 500 sites, including public libraries, Reach Out and Read Health Clinics, and Denver Preschool Program preschool classrooms. Learn more about One Book 4 Colorado at www.onebook4colorado.org. McDonald's and Emily Griffith Technical College also provided breakfast at the event to kick-off the launch of National School Breakfast Week.

**Gov. Hickenlooper announces Boards and Commissions appointments**

*Office of The Governor*

On Tuesday, March 3, 2015 Gov. John Hickenlooper last week announced the following boards and commissions appointments of interest to Axiom clients:

The Behavioral Health Transformation Council works to reduce the economic and social costs of untreated behavioral health disorders through the systemic transformation of the behavioral health system from one that is fragmented and siloed into one that is streamlined, efficient and effective for Colorado citizens.

**For a term to expire August 30, 2015:**

**•** Peggy Hill of Denver, to serve as a representative of the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council, and occasioned by the resignation of George M. DelGrosso of Firestone, appointed.

**For terms expiring August 30, 2018:**

• Margaret "Peggy" Heil of Canon City, to serve as a representative of the Colorado Department of Public Safety, appointed;

• Gregory M. Trollan, MA of Golden, to serve as a representative of the Colorado Department of Public Health Care Policy and Financing, appointed;

• Julia Suzanne Wigert of Denver, to serve as a representative of the Colorado Department of Education, appointed.

**For a term to expire August 30, 2019:**

**•** Kyle Michael Brown of Louisville, to serve as a representative of the Office of the Governor, and occasioned by the resignation of Kelly Perez of Denver, appointed.

The State Board of Dental Examiners makes rules and regulations, examines and licenses dentists and dental hygienists, and conducts hearings regarding the suspension or revocation of licenses.

**For terms expiring January 1, 2019:**

**•** Gail N. Raether, DDS of Littleton, to serve as a dentist, appointed;

• Paige Melissa McEvoy, RDH, BS of Denver, to serve as a dental hygienist, appointed;

• Susan Lois Warren of Denver, to serve as a member of the public, appointed.

The Colorado Board of Veterans' Affairs studies the problems facing veterans and makes recommendations to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Veterans' Affairs, concerning programs needed to assist veterans.

**For a term expiring June 30, 2017:**

**•** Bennie Jack Rudder of Alamosa, to serve as a veteran and as an Unaffiliated, and to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Wendy Sue Chiado, PhD of Colorado Springs, appointed.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) was created in 1937 for the purpose of aiding in the protection and development of the waters of the state. The agency is responsible for water project planning and finance, stream and lake protection, flood hazard identification and mitigation, weather modification, river restoration, water conservation and drought planning, water information, and water supply protection.

**For a term expiring February 12, 2016:**

**•** John Hawkins McClow of Gunnison, to serve as a representative of the Gunnison-Uncompahgre drainage basin and as an Unaffiliated, reappointed.

**For terms expiring February 12, 2018:**

**•** Phyllis "Diane" Hoppe of Broomfield, to serve as a representative of the South Platte drainage basin and as a Republican, reappointed;

• David H. "Ty" Wattenberg of Walden, to serve as a representative of the North Platte drainage basin and as a Republican, reappointed.

The Water Quality Control Commission is responsible for developing and maintaining a comprehensive and effective program for prevention, control and abatement of water pollution of the waters throughout the entire State.

**For a term expiring February 15, 2018:**

**•** Richard Clark Hum of Nathrop, occasioned by the resignation of Paul Dean Frohardt of Denver, appointed.

The State Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Contractors has general supervision and authority over the installation of pumps and pumping equipment and the construction and abandonment of water wells statewide. The board also licenses and regulates persons and firms engaged in the water well construction and pump installation contracting business.

**For a term expiring June 30, 2017:**

**•** Keith Branstetter of Hayden, to serve as a well construction contractor, and occasioned by the resignation of Jarod Dean Kuntz of Atwood, appointed.

The Colorado Humanities Board of Directors was established to promote progress and scholarship in the humanities and the arts in Colorado.

**For a term expiring May 1, 2017:**

• Sydney Nathans, PhD of Denver, and occasioned by the resignation of Alan Lee Foutz of Akron, appointed.

The purpose of the Colorado Human Trafficking Council is to bring together leadership from community-based and statewide anti-trafficking efforts, to build and enhance collaboration among communities and counties within the state, to establish and improve comprehensive services for victims and survivors of human trafficking, to assist in the successful prosecution of human traffickers, and to help prevent human trafficking in Colorado.

**For a term expiring August 1, 2018:**

**•** Jason Allen Korth of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of a faith-based organization that assists victims of human trafficking, and occasioned by the resignation of Lincoln Felton David Smith of Peyton, appointed.

The State Medical Assistance and Services Advisory Council assists the Dept. of Health Care Policy and Financing in the preparation and implementation of a comprehensive medical plan for low-income families.

**For terms expiring November 12, 2016:**

**•** Kimberley Evelyn Jackson, DO of Denver, to serve as a member of the public, and occasioned by the resignation of Victoria L. Vowel of Denver, appointed;

• Janet Irene Puglisi, BSN, RN of Longmont, to serve as a representative of home health care, and occasioned by the resignation of Theresa D. McCoy of Denver, appointed;

**For a term expiring November 12, 2017:**

**•** Ruth O'Brien, RN, PhD, FAAN of Aurora, who previously filled the position of public member, is now appointed to serve as a professional nurse, and occasioned by the resignation of Rebecca A. Lefebvre of Lafayette, appointed;

**For terms expiring November 12, 2018:**

**•** Blair Wyles of Franktown, to serve as a member of the public, reappointed;

• Jill R. Atkinson, PhD of Lyons, to serve as a representative of medical services, appointed.

The Sickle-Cell Anemia Advisory Board uses the existing staff and facilities of the University of Colorado School of Medicine to establish programs and conduct research for the care and treatment of persons suffering from sickle-cell anemia. The Board shall be composed of eleven members representing hospitals, voluntary agencies interested in sickle-cell anemia, medical specialists in sickle-cell anemia patient care, and the general public.

**For a term expiring January 31, 2019:**

• Sheila Dianne Eason, RN, BSN of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of the general public, reappointed.

The Urban Drainage and Flood Control Districts Board of Directors assists local governments in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of multi-jurisdictional drainage and flood control projects. Four members of the 23-member board are mayors from Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder and Jefferson counties.

**For a term expiring January 31, 2016:**

**•** Honorable Suzanne Ruth Jones of Boulder, and occasioned by the resignation of the Honorable George M. Karakehian of Boulder, appointed.

**Gov. Hickenlooper invites Coloradans to participate in the National Disaster Resilience Competition**

*Office of The Governor*

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 Gov. Hickenlooper today invited Coloradans to participate in the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC), a billion dollar federal competition for communities that have been struck by natural disasters in recent years. The NDRC was announced in July 2014 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Hickenlooper met with HUD Secretary Julian Castro on Monday and expressed Colorado's enthusiasm and strong commitment to participating in the competition. Public input during this phase of the application process is critical. "We heard countless stories of survival, kindness and heroics in the face of unthinkable disasters over the last few years," Hickenlooper said. "This competition provides us an opportunity to share those stories to help Colorado receive the necessary resources to rebuild better and prepare. It just takes a few minutes. Let's win this award!" The NDRC makes available $1 billion in funds, with a maximum award of $500 million. Eligible applicants must successfully develop innovative resilience projects that both address unmet needs from federally-declared disasters in 2011, 2012, or 2013 and that make their communities, citizens, and infrastructure more resilient by applying science-based and forward-looking risk analysis to address recovery, resilience, and revitalization needs. Colorado is one of 67 eligible applicants for the NDRC. In addition the the public input phase, a key component of Colorado's NDRC application is the Colorado Resiliency Project (CRP). This is a collective effort focused on preserving, protecting and promoting what makes Colorado special. The project will engage residents and learn their stories of resiliency. Molly Urbina, chief recovery officer for Colorado said CRP's ultimate goal is to create a framework that Colorado can use to empower communities to be more resilient in the face of natural disasters and other potential disruptions. "Hearing from Coloradans is critical as we look to create a resiliency framework, resilience is an important part of our everyday business," says Urbina. "This framework is an instrumental component in Colorado's long term resilience and adds strength to Colorado's application to HUD for much needed resiliency dollars. We want to collect as many stories of resiliency as we can and nominations for heroes -individuals who came to aid in the face of disaster or hardship-we bring to light what makes Colorado so special: our collective resilience and commitment to helping our neighbors."

There are a number of ways Coloradans can participate in this phase of the application:

**Provide comment and share stories online at:**

www.coloradounited.com/resilient

**Nominate a 'resiliency hero' and take the survey:**

www.coloradounited.com/resilient

**Participate in a webinar:**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

2 p.m.

**To join the meeting:**

http://codeptofla.adobeconnect.com/cdbg-dr/

Audio Conference Details:

Conference Number(s):

US (Toll): 1-719-234-7800

Participant Code: 514059

Attend a public meeting:

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

6 p.m.

Larimer County Conference Center

- located on the southeast side the First National Bank Building The Ranch Events Complex - Larimer County Fairgrounds, 5280 Arena Circle Loveland, CO

**Colorado receives $7.6 million award from HUD to assist vulnerable Coloradans**

*Office of The Governor*

Thursday, March 5, 2015 Gov. John Hickenlooper joined the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Regional Administrator Rick Garcia, and other nonprofits, mental health centers, and housing authorities today to celebrate the announcement of a $7.6 million award to the Colorado Division of Housing from HUD. The award is designed to provide rental vouchers for up to 411 vulnerable individuals. The Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Project Rental Assistance (PRA) Program allows low-income individuals with significant and long-term disabilities to live independently by providing affordable housing linked with voluntary services and supports. "We see dramatically improved health outcomes and reduced emergency spending when we work together to identify, refer, support and connect those who are homeless or at risk for homelessness with rental assistance and access to services," said Hickenlooper. This announcement, which follows a previous $1.6 million HUD award for 120 permanent supportive housing vouchers for homeless individuals, creates an increased incentive for the development of new permanent supportive housing projects across Colorado. These federal dollars will also help Colorado further the goals of the State Olmstead Plan by allowing individuals to leave nursing homes and other long-term care facilities in order to live more productive and fulfilling lives in the community. "HUD is committed to preventing and ending homelessness in Colorado," said Garcia. "This funding will assist very low-income residents with disabilities across the state find decent and safe housing that they can afford. Persons living with a disability should never have to worry about being able to find a safe place to live." Through collaboration with federal and state partners, Colorado will continue to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities and move one step closer to ensuring that every individual has a place to call home.

**Lt. Gov. Garcia statement on start of statewide testing in Colorado**

*Office of The Governor*

On Monday, March 9, 2015 Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia issued the following statement as the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) tests began statewide today: "We're all working to make sure that Colorado's schools are inclusive and provide a world-class education for every student. These assessments help us to see if we are meeting the high standards we have set for ourselves in Colorado. Opting out just makes this work harder. With full participation, we can ensure that every student gets a great education. We can ensure teachers and other educators get the credit they deserve for their incredible efforts. That's why I'm urging students to take the test and that's why I'm asking parents to encourage their kids to participate."

**SIPA Board announces new executive director**

*Colorado Statewide Internet Portal Authority*

The Colorado Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) Board of Directors announced that Jack Arrowsmith will join SIPA as the new executive director. Arrowsmith brings great knowledge and understanding of SIPA's services and vendors, having been involved with SIPA since its inception. In July 2004, Gov. Bill Owens appointed Arrowsmith to the SIPA Board of Directors. Arrowsmith held the position of chairman of the board since 2012 with the primary focus to represent local government in Colorado. Established in 2004 by the Colorado General Assembly, SIPA is a self-funded government organization that serves as the oversight body of the Colorado.gov web portal. Colorado.gov is the gateway to Colorado government, and it is intended to be Colorado's single most comprehensive delivery channel for electronic government (e-government) services. SIPA strives to accelerate the adoption of electronic government services by placing more government services, products, and information online and providing efficient, effective services to the residents of Colorado. In addition to no-cost websites built on the Drupal 7 platform, SIPA provides technology solutions including Google Apps for Government, electronic payment processing, geospatial maps, CRM tools, and cellular mapping solutions. For more information, visit www.colorado.gov/sipa.

**Bipartisan Backing for Chain Law Clarification**

*Colorado House Democrats*

Rep. Diane Mitsch Bush's bill to reduce the number of wintertime traffic tie-ups on the mountain portions of Interstate 70 won bipartisan House support last week. The 43-21 vote sends the bill down the road to the Senate. HB15-1173, sponsored by Reps. Mitsch Bush, D-Steamboat Springs, and Bob Rankin, R-Carbondale, would clarify the existing chain law that currently requires adequate tread depth or chains when the chain law is in effect. The bill would reduce confusion for motorists who often do not realize that they are already required to have adequate tires or chains and can be fined for noncompliance. The bill stipulates that from Nov. 1 to May 15, on I-70 in the mountain corridor between Morrison and Dotsero, passenger vehicles must have adequate traction equipment. Poorly equipped vehicles don't need to crash, or even to spin out, to cause a massive backup - they merely need to stop on an uphill section of road and be unable to get enough traction to start moving forward again, causing a domino effect as other underequipped vehicles and well-equipped semi-trucks get stuck too. "Anyone who has been stuck on I-70 knows it only takes one poorly equipped vehicle to trigger a full closure," Rep. Mitsch Bush said. "With this bill we're showing we're serious about keeping our mountain lifeline flowing." The bill addresses not only a public safety issue, but also an economic one. Wintertime closures of I-70 are estimated to cost the Colorado economy $1 million an hour.

**TISHA SCHULLER STEPPING DOWN AS COGA PRESIDENT AND CEO**

*National Search Underway for Her Successor*

**After more than five successful years at the helm of the Colorado Oil and Gas Association, Tisha Schuller has** decided to step down as president and Chief Executive Officer of the largest industry trade association in the state. Schuller will continue in her role as CEO until the end of May and will continue as the Chair of the Rocky Mountain Energy Summit Conference in late August. A national firm has been hired to search for her replacement. "Tisha has not only ably served the interests of COGA's board and its 300 association members, but she's served all of Colorado by being a positive, pro-active voice for the oil and gas industry," said Alan Harrison, chairman of the COGA board of directors. "Her energy, her insight and her vision will be missed."

During her tenure, COGA expanded its mission from a focus on state regulations and the General Assembly to broad programmatic engagement that includes community and local government outreach and diverse education efforts. Other organizations in Colorado and across the United States have begun to use COGA's model for outreach and education to build support for their organizations. Schuller was instrumental in improving relationships between local communities and oil and gas operators during some fairly tumultuous political years when some local governments wanted to ban fracking and energy development. Schuller guided COGA as it re-tooled and enhanced its engagement efforts with communities across the state. The association helped local governments craft agreements with operators that gave cities and counties a greater voice in the oil and gas development process.

**The Calculator**

**House Bills Introduced: 275**

**Senate Bills Introduced: 204**

**Number of Bills PI'd: 97**