

# HOW TO TESTIFY



# INTRODUCTIONS

## ASCSU

Jebrail Dempsey - Director of Diversity

Ava Wilkins - Director of Governmental Affairs

Hailey Rageth - Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs

## New Era

Kim Carracedo - Northern Regional Lead Organizer

## Young Invincibles

Manuel Marquez - Advocate



# About Young Invincibles

## Our Mission

Young Invincibles' mission is to amplify the voices of young adults in the political process and expand economic opportunity for our generation.

## Our Vision

All young people fully participate in our nation's political process and have the economic opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

### OUR ISSUES



HEALTH CARE



HIGHER  
EDUCATION



WORKFORCE &  
FINANCES



CIVIC  
ENGAGEMENT

**YOUNG**   
**INVINCIBLES**



## Policy

The Rocky Mountain Young Invincibles office is committed to advancing policy benefiting young adults in higher education, health care (with an emphasis on mental health care), workforce development, and civic engagement. Our policy priorities are guided by the needs of young adults in Colorado. We regularly survey our network, and continuously solicit feedback from young adults throughout Colorado to ensure that we hold young adults furthest from power and privilege at the center of our work.

## Research

We've produced various policy and research products related to achieving gender equity in Colorado apprenticeships, a policy roadmap for supporting student parents, and recommendations for increasing young adult use of preventive health care services. In our most recent report, *Women in the Workforce*, we researched the future of women's involvement in the workforce and found that the child-care crisis, brought on in part by the pandemic's effects, had a massive impact on women and families, especially in marginalized communities in Colorado.

## YOUNG INVINCIBLES

## LOBBYING 101

### TIPS:

- Practice your roles before heading to the Capitol with your team
  - ROLES:
    - Who will introduce the group?
    - Who will share their story?
    - Who will explain the legislative recommendations?
    - Who will make the asks?
    - Who leave behind factsheets?
    - Who will take notes?
    - Who will take pictures?
- Listen to the concerns of your legislator.
- **If you don't know how to answer a question, say so.**
- Ensure your legislator knows what you want him/her to do before saying thank you and goodbye.
- Be concise & clear. The legislator typically can spend 3 minutes with you tops.
- Share your story or local examples to emphasize impact.
- Leave materials with your legislator and provide information on how to get in touch with you later.
- BE YOURSELF & HAVE FUN.

### HOW TO PULL YOUR LEGISLATOR "OFF THE FLOOR"

- Write the legislator's name on the provided slips (Sen. X or Rep. X)
- Write a brief note indicating who you are (name, student at X and indicate if you're their constituent).
- Hand your slip to the Sergeant at Arms (lobbying captains can complete this task). Sergeant at Arms wears a green jacket in the House & burgundy jacket in the Senate.
- Wait for your legislator (be sure to know what your legislator looks like so you can direct their attention towards you when they enter the lobby). You can ask the Sergeant at Arms to point the legislator out when they come out of the chambers.
- Begin your meeting!

## Example:

*"Good afternoon, Representative/Senator [Last Name], My name is Manuel Marquez, and I'm here with Young Invincibles to talk about increasing workforce opportunities for undocumented graduates in Colorado. Right now, thousands of talented students graduate from Colorado institutions every year but are unable to work due to immigration barriers. The CASE Act would provide them with caseworker support and funding to help them secure employment post-graduation, strengthening our economy and retaining skilled talent in the state. We'd love your support in making this a reality."*

# QUESTIONS FOR YOUNG INVINCIBLES?



<https://younginvincibles.org/location/colorado/>

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[melanie.kesner@younginvincibles.org](mailto:melanie.kesner@younginvincibles.org)

# About New Era

## Harnessing young people's political power to co-create a Colorado that serves all people.

New Era is the leading voice for young people in Colorado politics and one of the most effective youth civic engagement organizations in the country. We work alongside our peers to grow our generation's power. We fight for a better Colorado for everyone, not just for a privileged few. Since day one, we set out to bring our progressive and diverse generation into the political world—not to get in line and stick with the status quo but to take charge and reshape our democracy to work better for everyone.

**NEW ERA**  
**COLORADO**

# New Era Youth Agenda

Through policymaking, organizing, and civic engagement, New Era will lead and support advocacy efforts on:

- **Climate Justice:** We will protect our environment and dismantle racist policies that disproportionately impact the health and well-being our communities.
- **Reproductive Rights:** We will cement a person's ability to make autonomous decisions for their reproductive health and create a culture for reproductive care free, from fear or stigma and surrounded by dignity and support, in Colorado.
- **Higher Education & Student Debt:** We will make attending post-secondary learning more accessible and affordable for everyone, regardless of their income, race, ethnicity, gender, or citizenship status.
- **Economic Justice:** We will make it possible for everyone to have financial stability, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, citizenship, or income. We believe corporations should pay what they owe to build a strong social infrastructure to meet everyone's basic needs.
- **Democracy Reform:** We will make sure that everyone can participate in our democratic processes. We will reform systems so that the needs of all people are represented and advocate for policies that improve voting access for young people, especially young Black, Indigenous, Latine/Hispanic, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Coloradans.

# QUESTIONS FOR NEW ERA?

**NEW ERA COLORADO** WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE DO - TAKE ACTION - GET INVOLVED - NEWS **DONATE** f t

## YOUNG & POWERFUL

Youth power arrived in Colorado and we're taking charge of our future. Our generation is the most progressive, most diverse, and unstoppable in history. WE are the leaders we've been waiting for.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
New Era Colorado Announces New Executive Director

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT**  
Get involved and support our work

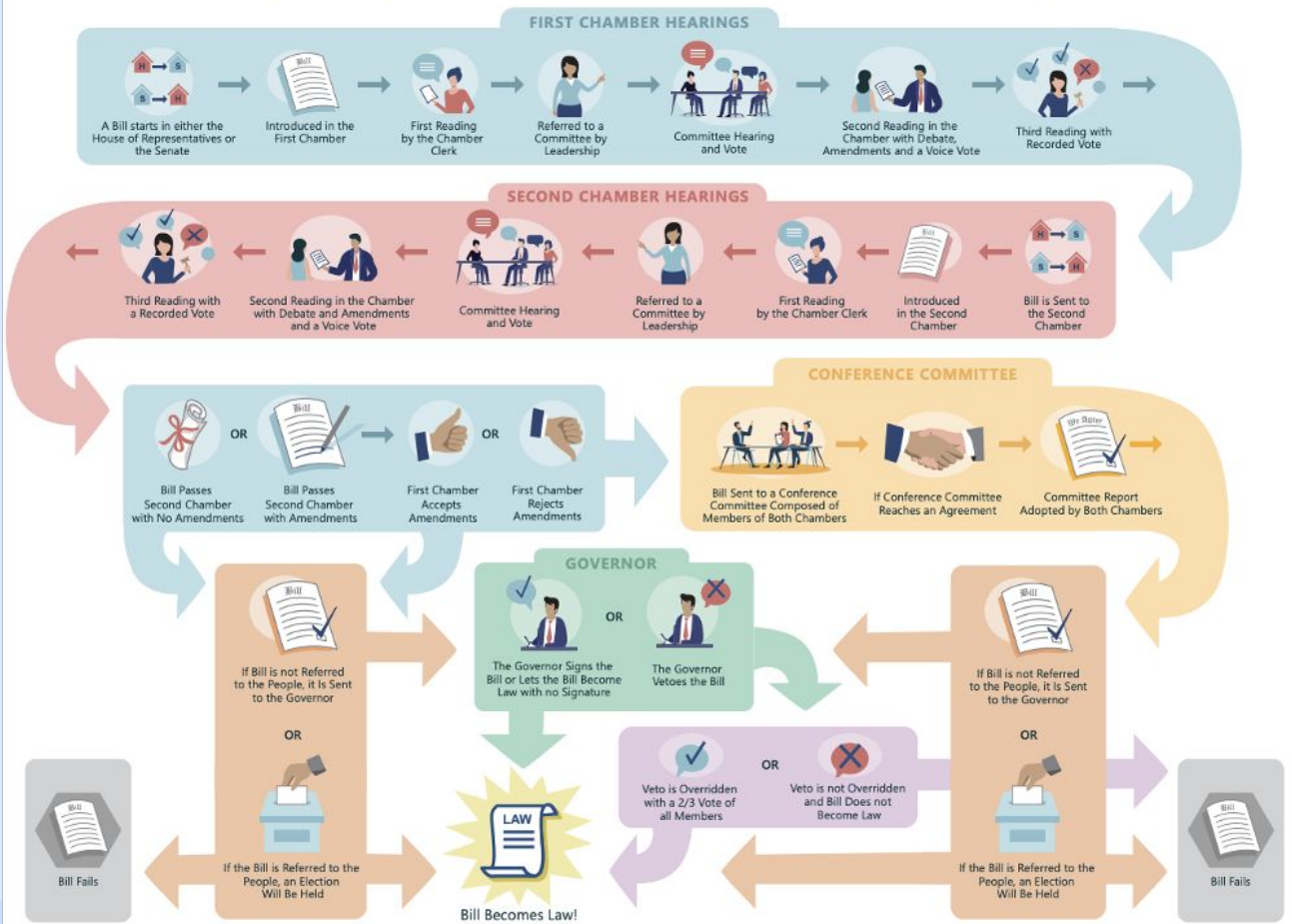
**HELP US WIN**  
Give \$5 to fund youth political power today!

<https://neweracolorado.org/>

kimberly@neweracolorado.org



# HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW IN COLORADO



# Testimony Overview

- What is testimony?
- How does it have influence?
  - Makes a political decision personal
  - Provides expertise to legislators who aren't an expert in that specific area
  - Elevate an issue
  - Provides an opportunity for folks to share their opinions with their legislators. Because, democracy.

# Testimony Structure

- About 3 minutes
- Flows well and has a clear structure
  - **Step 1: Introduction:**
    - State name, 1-2 sentences about why this bill is important
    - Here today to tell my story in the hopes that it will do X
  - **Step 2: Body Paragraph 1:**
    - This could be about a myriad of things: specific circumstances, what you are doing to work your way through college, how limited access to abortion access has affected you or your family, etc.
  - **Step 3: Body Paragraph 2:**
    - This could be a continuation of paragraph 1, but with a bigger nod toward why your topic is such an important issue.
  - **Step 4: Conclusion:**
    - Please support this bill because X (your strongest statement)
    - Final thank you

# Example Testimony

Hello everyone my name is Linsi Bowers and I want thank you all for giving me the opportunity to speak with you today. I am here to urge you to support the Student Loan Servicer Accountability Act to help ensure that future Colorado students have the right to not be taken advantage of by student loan servicers. My story is an illustration of the barriers put forth toward lower income students seeking to better themselves.

I am a first generation student and a native Coloradan from Sterling. I come from a working-class family who has been struggling to make ends meet since my mother was permanently injured in her workplace. I always knew education was my one key to success but now that I have graduated my degree is not benefiting me the way I had hoped; in fact it is doing quite the opposite.

I have made smart choices by staying in my home state for school and holding a job throughout all four years. I have worked in customer service for 5 years to support myself along with completing multiple internships and volunteer opportunities to help my chances of gaining employment. Now, post-graduation the effects of my decision to attend college are in strong focus. Six months after I graduated I was required to start paying back my loans before having secured a full-time job.

Now I'm working two part time jobs in my field, but dealing with loan servicers has made my life hell. I have loans through three different servicers which means I am unable to consolidate them and paying interest on multiple loans. The automatic systems often harass me, calling me or my cosigner up to five times a day. When I have asked about lower payment options the employees are unhelpful and make me feel ashamed that I am unable to pay the full amount. Time and time again they suggest I go into forbearance, which adds interest to the principal of the loan and requires arbitrary fees that go directly to the servicers. This is a practice that is quite common and designed for the borrowers' to fail. Implementing the Student Loan Servicer Accountability Act will help prevent these predatory practices.

The reality is there are thousand of students like me in the state of Colorado who may not ever never be able to repay their debt. For my generation student loans will come before buying a house, a new car, or saving for our future children's education. As it stands, the basic tenets of the American Dream have been put on indefinite hold because I engaged in the necessity of obtaining my degree. Now is the time to take action to stop more damage before it is too late. We do not want our future leaders from working class families to forgo higher education just to avoid the lifelong shackles of student loan debt.

I ask that you take a moment to listen to the pleas of your constituents and address the barriers that stand in the way of Coloradans seeking the benefits of higher education. There is still so much more to be done, but passing the Student Loan Servicer Accountability Act is a start. Preventing predatory practices will help young scholars get the financial education they deserve before signing onto a loan that they will likely be paying back their whole lives. My generation deserves the opportunity to receive a higher education and to pay for it in a fair, transparent way without being taken advantage of. Please do the right thing and vote yes on House Bill 1352, our future counts on it. Thank you.]



## Intro: background, why this bill is important



Hello everyone my name is Linsi Bowers and I want thank you all for giving me the opportunity to speak with you today. I am here to urge you to support the Student Loan Servicer Accountability Act to help ensure that future Colorado students have the right to not be taken advantage of by student loan servicers. My story is an illustration of the barriers put forth toward lower income students seeking to better themselves.

I am a first generation student and a native Coloradan from Sterling. I come from a working-class family who has been struggling to make ends meet since my mother was permanently injured in her workplace. I always knew education was my one key to success but now that I have graduated my degree is not benefiting me the way I had hoped; in fact it is doing quite the opposite.

I have made smart choices by staying in my home state for school and holding a job throughout all four years. I have worked in customer service for 5 years to support myself along with completing multiple internships and volunteer opportunities to help my chances of gaining employment. Now, post-graduation the effects of my decision to attend college are in strong focus. Six months after I graduated I was required to start paying back my loans before having secured a full-time job.

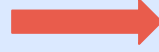
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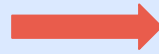
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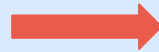
## Specific circumstances



## Continuation + connection to the bill



## Conclusion + strongest statement



# HOW TO TESTIFY **IN-PERSON** at the **CO STATE CAPITOL**

## 1. Sign Up to Testify

- a. Visit the Colorado General Assembly's website:  
<https://leg.colorado.gov>
- b. Click **"COMMITTEES"** and click on **"Public Testimony Options"**
- c. Select **"in-person testimony"** and complete the sign-up form before the deadline

The screenshot shows the Colorado General Assembly website. The browser address bar displays [leg.colorado.gov](https://leg.colorado.gov). The main navigation menu includes **COMMITTEES**, which is highlighted. A dropdown menu is open, showing **Public Testimony Options** as the selected option. Below this, the **Testimony Signup** form is visible, with **STEP 1** selected. The form asks "How do you wish to testify?" and has three radio button options: **In Person** (selected), **Remotely via Zoom**, and **Submit Written Testimony**. A **Next >** button is at the bottom right.

# HOW TO TESTIFY IN-PERSON CONT.

## Testimony Signup

STEP 1 **STEP 2** STEP 3 STEP 4

### Testifying in Person

By Committee and Hearing Item

By Hearing Item

By Sponsor and Bill

[← Back](#) [Next >](#)

## Testimony Signup

STEP 1 STEP 2 **STEP 3** STEP 4

### By Committee and Hearing Item

Committee Name  
House Transportation, Housing & Local Government

Meeting Date and Time  
02/18/2025 01:30 PM

Hearing Item  
House Transportation, Housing & Local Government HB25-1007 (Paratransit Services [Froelich, Valdez, Winter F., Simpson])

[← Back](#) [Next >](#)

These options will change based on the bill you're testifying on

## Testimony Signup

STEP 1 STEP 2 STEP 3 **STEP 4**

### Public Testimony

Title First Name \* Last Name \*

You must use this name when joining the Zoom meeting in order to testify.

Pronoun

She, her, hers

He, him, his

They, them, theirs

Position on the Hearing Item \*

For

Against

Neutral

Amend

Questions Only

Representing \*

Self

Organization

Phone \* Email \*

Address Zip Code \*

[← Back](#)

Choose "For" or "Against"

As a student, choose "self" unless you have permission to testify on behalf of an organization.

# HOW TO TESTIFY IN-PERSON CONT.

## 2. Prepare Your Testimony

- a. Keep it brief (**2-3 minutes max**)
- b. Start with your name, affiliation (if applicable), and position on the bill (support/oppose/neutral)
  - i. "Good afternoon, Chair \_\_\_\_\_ and members of the committee. **My name is** Jane Smith, and I am a student at CSU, **speaking on behalf of myself**. I'm here today to testify in **support** of HB25-2025 and to share why this issue matters to me personally."
- c. Share personal stories, data, or expertise to backup your stance
- d. Practice staying within the time limit



# HOW TO TESTIFY IN-PERSON CONT.

## 3. Arrive at the Capitol

- Address: **Colorado State Capitol, 200 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO**
- Arrive **at least 30 minutes early** to go through security and find the committee room
- Check in with committee staff to confirm your spot on the testimony list

## 4. Give Your Testimony

- Wait for the committee chair to call your name
- Speak clearly and respectfully
- Stick to key points and avoid repeating what others have said
- Be prepared for questions from legislators**

## 5. Follow Up

- Consider emailing legislators after the hearing to reinforce your points
- Track the bill's progress and stay engaged in the process

# BILL TRACKING

## Legislation ASCSU is tracking: (our impacted student populations)

- HB 25-1007 Paratransit Services (SDC)
- HB 25-1017 Community Integration Plan Individuals with Disabilities (SDC)
- HB 25-1012 Income Tax Expenditures for Service Members (ALVS)
- HB 25-1028 Modifications to Address Confidentiality Program (SAFE)
- HB 25-1030 Accessibility Standards in Building Codes (SDC)
- HB 25-1036 Missing Murdered Indigenous Relative License Plate (NAAC)
- HB 25-1047 Veterans Benefits Claim Deceptive Practices (ALVS)
- HB 25-1057 American Indian Affairs Interim Committee (NAAC)
- HB 25-1068 Malpractice Insurers Gender-Affirming Care Minors (PRIDE)
- HB 25-1084 Remove Gendered Language from Title 35 (PRIDE)
- HB 25-1109 Gender Identity Certificate of Death (PRIDE)
- HB 25-1140 Disclosing Information to Immigration Authorities (El Centro)
- HB 25-1145 Trafficking Minor for Abortion or Transgender Care (SAFE, PRIDE)
- HB 25-1149 Comprehensive Black History & Culture Education in K-12 (B/AACC)
- HB 25-1153 Statewide Government Language Access Assessment (El Centro, B/AACC)
- HB 25-1154 Communication Services People with Disabilities Enterprise (SDC)
- HB 25-1163 Free Access to State Parks for Colorado Ute Tribes (NAAC)
- SB 25-047 Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law (El Centro, All)

Here is another great resource for tracking legislation:

<https://app.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bills/>

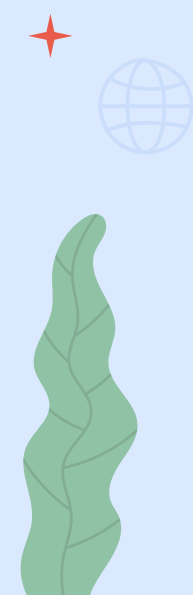
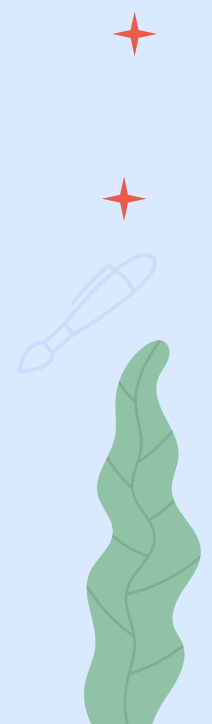


# LOCAL TESTIMONY



## Fort Collins City Council:

<https://www.fcgov.com/council/citizen-participation.php>

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- **Public Comment Period:** Speak during the 30-minute citizen participation at the start of regular City Council meetings (1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.).
  - **Agenda Items:** Provide input when specific topics are discussed—time limits vary (typically 3–5 minutes).
  - **Sign Up to Speak:** Register online **prior to 5:30 PM the day of the meeting** to speak or join virtually via Zoom (details on the City’s website).
  - **Meeting Agendas:** Posted in advance online—review topics before attending.
  - **Consent Agenda:** Request to pull an item for discussion if needed.
  - **Respect & Guidelines:** Follow the City’s public participation policies for a productive engagement. Read the “Rules of procedure” linked on the website before attending.

# Fort Collins Town Hall

## Fort Collins Town Hall and Listening Sessions:

- Hosted by Fort Collins-area legislators: Senator Cathy Kipp, Representative Andy Boesenecker, and Representative Yara Zokaie.
- Sessions are typically held on Saturday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of the month. Locations vary but can be found on their websites or social media.

### Websites:

- Senator Cathy Kipp: <https://cathykipp.com/>
- Representative Andy Boesenecker: <https://www.andybforcolorado.com/>
- Representative Yara Zokaie: <https://www.yaraforco.com/>

Sign up to  
testify at the  
CO State  
Capitol!



Scan me!

We'll keep you updated on the legislation we're tracking and let you know when we're heading to the Capitol to testify in committee!



## CAPITOL CHRONICLES

VOLUME 1: FEBRUARY 17TH



### Act Up this Week

- **HB 25-1007 Paratransit Services**
  - House Transportation, Housing, and Local Govt. on Feb. 18th
- **HB 25-1017 Community Integration Plan Individuals with Disabilities**
  - House Health & Human Services on Feb. 18th
- **HB 25-1140 Disclosing Information to Immigration Authorities**
  - House Judiciary on Feb. 18th
- **HB 25-1148 Comprehensive Black History & Culture Education in K-12**
  - House Education on Feb. 19th
- **HB 25-1154 Communication Services People with Disabilities Enterprise**
  - House Health & Human Services on Feb. 19th
- **HB 25-1030 Accessibility Standards in Building Codes**
  - House Transportation, Housing, Local Govt. on Feb. 20th

### Key Resources

- [Colorado Bill Tracker](#)
- [Young Invincible Colorado](#)
- [New Era Colorado](#)
- [Fort Collins City Council Testimony](#)
- [Senator Cathy Kijiro](#)
- [5 Calls](#) - Calling your Congressperson

### Next Week

- **HB 25-1163 Free Access to State Parks for Colorado Ute Tribes**
  - House Agriculture, Water, and Natural Resources on Feb. 24th
- **SB 25-047 Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law**
  - Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs on Feb. 25th
- **HB 25-1109 Gender Identity Certificate of Death**
  - House Health & Human Services on Feb. 25th
- **HB 25-1084 Remove Gendered Language from Title 35**
  - House Agriculture & Natural Resources on Feb. 28th



As you prepare to testify, remember that your perspective matters and can drive meaningful change. We encourage you to stay connected, and don't hesitate to reach out if you need any further guidance or support as you navigate the process. Together, we can help shape Colorado's future.