

Newsletter – Legislative Day 102

April 20, 2023



Land Use Bill Part II in Committee

As you may recall, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee heard over 10 hours of testimony regarding SB23-213 earlier this month, but action had been postponed to a later day. This past Tuesday, SB23-213 was put on this same committee's agenda for action-only to discuss the intent and effects of this legislation. My colleagues and I who sit on Senate Transportation and Housing Committee worked through countless amendments in an attempt to make this outrageous bill just a little less presumptuous towards local control.

My proposed amendment to this bill adds five municipal election requirements that would bring public voice into a bill that otherwise tramples the autonomy of local governments. These amendments would have given people a voice in decisions that directly impact the communities in which they live.

Statement in Response to New BHA Leadership

Earlier this week, the Office of the Colorado Governor released a statement that "Governor Polis announced that the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services, Michelle Barnes, will serve as the interim Commissioner of the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) effective immediately."

It is my sincere hope that the Behavioral Health Administration will now be led with accountability and attentiveness to the concerns of rural communities. The integrity of the BHA must be at the forefront of all actions taken here forward, and the BHA must make a better effort to listen to community leaders and understand their connection to behavioral health.

Bill Updates

House Bill 23-1153 Pathways To Behavioral Health Care
This bill creates a study to determine the feasibility of creating a system to support individuals with serious mental illness through a collaboration between Colorado's behavioral health and judicial systems.

STATUS: Assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee

House Bill 23-1276 Scope Of Bridge And Tunnel Enterprise
This bill expands the scope of the CDOT bridge and tunnel enterprise to take on preventative maintenance projects and repair bridges as part of other projects.

STATUS: Assigned to Senate Transportation & Energy Committee

WWII Veteran Celebrates 100th Birthday

Mr. Eugene Brown of Logan County is a World War II Veteran who will be celebrating his 100th year of life on April 30th. In recognition of both his service to our country and in celebration of his 100 years of life, Happy early 100th birthday Mr. Brown and thank you for your service!



Pictured: The Colorado General Assembly was happy to offer a tribute honoring Mr. Brown, which I was deeply honored to read on the Senate floor, for public record and recognition.

Upcoming Event

Join me in this upcoming Monday in Fort Morgan to talk about what is happening at the State Capitol. Everyone is invited, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Fort Morgan Coffee Meeting

When: Monday, April 24
6:30 AM to 7:30 AM

Where: Home Plate Fort Morgan
19719 US-34, Fort Morgan

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