

April Newsletter – Legislative Day 87

April 5, 2023



Rural Mental Health

I was disheartened to hear about the recent death that occurred in Fort Morgan. My condolences to everyone who has been impacted by the loss of their friend, family member, co-worker, and neighbor. My heart goes out to the first responders who responded to this tragic incident.

The mental health epidemic that we are experiencing here in our state is multi-faceted, and it can affect everyone. For those who have been impacted by this latest tragedy, or another tragedy, please do not hesitate to reach out to someone if you need to talk or need connected with resources.

Mental health issues are the root cause of several issues we discuss and attempt to alleviate at the Capitol. This is why one of my main focuses, both when I was a County Commissioner and now as a State Senator, has been to get the Behavior Health Administration up and functioning properly. The BHA has a long way to go before it starts to be effective, but every second matters in getting easily accessible mental health resources to those living in rural communities.

My Bills

Senate Bill 23-109: Increases charges to a level 1 drug felony if the substance supplied leads to the death of the drug user. This bill aims to give families of overdose victims the justice they deserve. **Status:** This bill was introduced in the House on March 27th and was assigned to the House Judiciary Committee.

House Bill 23-1153: Creates a study to assess the possibility of creating a system to support people who have mental illness through a collaboration between Colorado's Behavioral Health Administration and judicial systems. **Status:** Referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

House Bill 23-1045: Ensures that a member of either the Colorado National Guard or the U.S. Reserve Forces are entitled to a leave of absence from employment for training or active state military service for the equivalent of 3 weeks of work on the officer's or employee's regular work schedule each year. **Status:** On March 10th, this bill was signed into law!

Save The Date

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

Purple Up! For Military Kids Day

April 4th was Purple Up! For Military Kids Day at the Capitol. This day is designated to recognize the unique sacrifices that military children make alongside their families, both home and abroad. I enjoyed meeting with children of military families and answering their questions about the Colorado State Legislature.



Stay Connected:

SenatorBPelton@gmail.com

Office: (303) 866-6360

Cell: (970) 571-0608

Facebook: [Byron Pelton for CO Senate](#)

Twitter: [@commish_pelton](#)

200 E. Colfax Ave
Room 346
Denver, CO 80203