

Systemic Equality

We worked to protect Colorado’s democracy from federal attacks. We also fought to ensure Coloradans are protected from unclear and unfair pricing as surveillance technologies continue to become more widespread.

- **Codified voter protections amid federal Voting Rights Act erosion.** Preserved private right of action, added safeguards for marginalized voters, improved redistricting challenges, and mandated public election data — fortifying democracy through proactive state-level leadership. (SB25-001)
- **Eliminated medical copays in prisons and jails,** removing financial barriers to essential care. A critical step toward health equity for incarcerated individuals, whose wages average less than \$1/hour. (HB25-1026)
- **Required clear, upfront pricing across sectors.** Prevents hidden fees in consumer transactions, empowering buyers and renters with transparent cost information — a strong consumer protection and anti-deceptive practices measure. (HB25-1090)



Rep. Jennifer Bacon speaks at a Colorado Voting Rights Act press conference on Mar. 3, 2025.

- **Would have outlawed discriminatory pricing and wage-setting algorithms based on surveillance data.** Advanced transparency standards and consumer protections, especially for low-income and BIPOC communities. **A priority to revisit next session.** (HB25-1264)

The Work Ahead

This summer, we will **empower our communities with Know your rights information, trainings, and build power across the state** to ensure our elected officials keep fighting to advance our freedoms.



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We have fought to make Colorado a **firewall for freedom** since 1952.

Now, with the return of the Trump administration, **we and hundreds of community partners took bold action to defend Coloradans against federal overreach and bad faith actors.** I remain proud of our team, as well as our deep engagement with community members, grassroots organizations, and grasstop allies. I look forward to building on our progress to ensure all Coloradans are afforded the fundamental liberties and freedoms we all cherish so dearly.

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Smart Justice

This year, we built on our work from previous legislative sessions to prevent yet another expansion of Colorado’s juvenile justice system. We also worked with partners to make municipal courts more fair, following our litigation and investigation of the issue.

- **Ended criminal charges for failure to appear in municipal courts — a reform crucial for unhoused and vulnerable populations.** Prevents excessive sentencing for contempt and ensures courts focus on the original citation, not systemic barriers to attendance. (SB25-062)
- **Prevented harmful youth bed expansion.** Instead, secured statewide pre-arrest deflection funding and system flexibility, while enhancing oversight and safety standards. This prioritized diversion and equity in youth justice without increasing incarceration. (HB25-1146 and SB25-043)
- **Would have achieved sentencing parity between municipal and state courts for poverty-related offenses.** Key municipal court reforms advancing statewide fairness and due process by mandating public access to proceedings and legal counsel for indigent defendants. **A priority to revisit next session.** (HB25-1147)

2025 Legislative Session By the Numbers

ACLU staff testifying on bills	8
Number of bills ACLU testified on	31
1:1s with legislators	388
Number of times ACLU testified	54
Total coalition partners	128
Smart Justice bills	26
Privacy and Liberty bills	27
Systemic Equality bills	22
Support bills passed	41
Support bills failed	10
Oppose bills passed	5
Oppose bills failed	19



A PEAK Civil Rights Lobby Day attendee reviews lobbying materials for HB25-1147 on Feb. 25, 2025.



Privacy and Liberty

As surveillance technologies — including facial recognition technology and artificial intelligence — continue to expand, we helped pass legislation that will strengthen Coloradans’ privacy. We also worked to defend against book bans and federal attacks on LGBTQ+ Coloradans.

- **Mandates a uniform framework for book removals in schools, preventing political or ideological censorship.** Protects free expression for educators and students, ensuring intellectual freedom remains a core value in public education. (SB25-063)
- **Expanded protections for immigrant families against federal overreach.** Reinforced constitutional and privacy rights by limiting data sharing, strengthening due process, and requiring certain public institutions to have policies when encountering immigration enforcement authorities. (SB25-276)
- **Established statewide regulations for K–12 facial recognition technology ahead of prohibition sunset.** Balances safety and civil liberties, ensuring technology use respects student, family, and staff privacy across all school settings. (SB25-143)
- **Affirmed legal recognition for transgender and gender-expansive individuals.** Clarified chosen name under anti-discrimination law and eased updates to IDs and certificates — advancing dignity and access in identity documentation. (HB25-1312)