

Spotlight on LIFT Week 2023 Attendee Britt'ny Henderson

“The people who speak for us and against us are **regular people just like us**, but in the same breath they need us to communicate our stance on things so they know if they need to stand on their opinion or change it.

I’m very blessed, thankful and glad I accepted and even was offered the opportunity to go, because just being myself, being attentive and passionate put me in the **exact** place I needed to be [...]”

— Britt'ny Henderson, LIFT Week 2023 Attendee



▲ Britt'ny Henderson (left) attending Lobby Day with other members of the Center for Employment Opportunities. After LIFT Week 2023, Britt'ny became a legal aide for State Representative Junie Joseph.



A transformative week of legislative education, training and mobilization.

ACLU of Colorado returned to the capitol this year with our biggest and most effective legislative week of action yet. LIFT Week 2023 was a transformative week of legislative education, training and mobilization centered on issues that will **create long-term systemic change** for those most impacted by an unjust criminal legal system and an escalating housing crisis.

Activists who attended were able to discuss **the housing crisis, improving our criminal justice system and protecting youth** with their legislators this year.

LIFT Week 2023 Metrics

Turnout phone calls	376
Turnout emails	173
Legislators engaged by LIFT Week 2023 attendees	20
Legislators that attended LIFT Week 2023 events	13
Counties represented by LIFT Week 2023 attendees	8
Meet State ACLU-CO Legislator Champions panel attendees	45
Advocacy and Action Taking training attendees	66
Creating Policy 101 training attendees	41
Give Your Story Power training attendees	22
Day at the Capitol and Lobby Day attendees	47
Breakfast burritos ordered	100

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What is LIFT People?



▲ Sophia Mayott-Guerrero, Senior Organizing Strategist, and LIFT Week 2023 attendees at the Colorado State Capitol.

Lobbying is for The People (LIFT) is the ACLU of Colorado's annual advocacy program that gives activists from across the state the tools they need to influence state legislative policy on civil rights and civil liberties issues that directly impact their lives.

LIFT includes two major annual events: our **LIFT Summer Advocacy Institute** — launching this August — that prepares activists for the upcoming legislative session, and our **LIFT Week** in February during the Colorado legislative session.

Register today: acluco.org/LIFTsummer

Note from the Executive Director

Our three-year strategic framework, *The Road Ahead*, takes steps toward a vision of Colorado as the **most just and equitable state in the country** — a state where civil rights and liberties are not only protected, but also united by a commitment to **creating a thriving democracy** and **expanding the definitions and protections of liberty and freedom**.

To enact this vision, we rely on the wisdom and activism of all Coloradans. LIFT is an example of how we at the ACLU of Colorado plan to **amplify the collective needs of those unjustly impacted by our current systems**, and our unified vision to **change those systems to benefit us all**.



▲ Deborah Richardson, ACLU of Colorado Executive Director

LIFTing Voices From Across the State

Colorado's laws should be **representative of our state's diverse communities** and our shared values. To do this, it's critical to ensure that Coloradans of all backgrounds are engaged in the legislative process.

To support the most diverse LIFT People cohort in our organization's history, we contacted existing members and new volunteers of all ages, races and cultural backgrounds from across the state. We had attendees both virtually and in person from eight counties, aged between 18 and 70, who all believe we can **make Colorado the most just state in the nation**.

▼ From left to right: LIFT Week 2023 attendees; Anaya Robinson, Senior Policy Strategist; Julian Camera, Field Organizer; Lesley Chavarria, Organizer and Miles Jones, Advocacy Intern, gather at the Colorado State Capitol.



1: State Representative Elisabeth Epps speaks to LIFT Week 2023 attendees.

2: State Senator James Coleman speaks to LIFT Week 2023 attendees at the Colorado State Capitol.

