

WEEK OF ACTION

Lobbying is for the people!

April 21, 2022



Thank you to our Week of Action Ambassadors

ACLU
CO

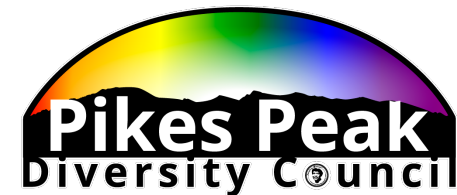
Learn about opportunities to get involved in the follow up email



- Colorado Crime Survivors Network
- Cobalt



- Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
- NAACP Colorado-Montana-Wyoming State Area Conference



- Pikes Peak Diversity Council
- Healthier Colorado



- Girls Inc. of Metro Denver
- Mirror Image Arts



Meet Other Attendees

Please share in the chat:

- Name
- Pronouns
- First word that comes to mind when you think of “lobbying”



What about a Capitol Tour tomorrow?

Get an in-person private tour of the Capitol tomorrow hosted by our very own ACLU staffers! (*shhhh... it comes with ghost stories and exclusive access to the secretive fourth floor*)

Time slots remaining:

- 9:30 to 11:00am
- 3:00 to 5:00pm

Sign up now at aclu-co.org/en/events/tour-state-capitol

You could be here tomorrow



WEEK OF ACTION

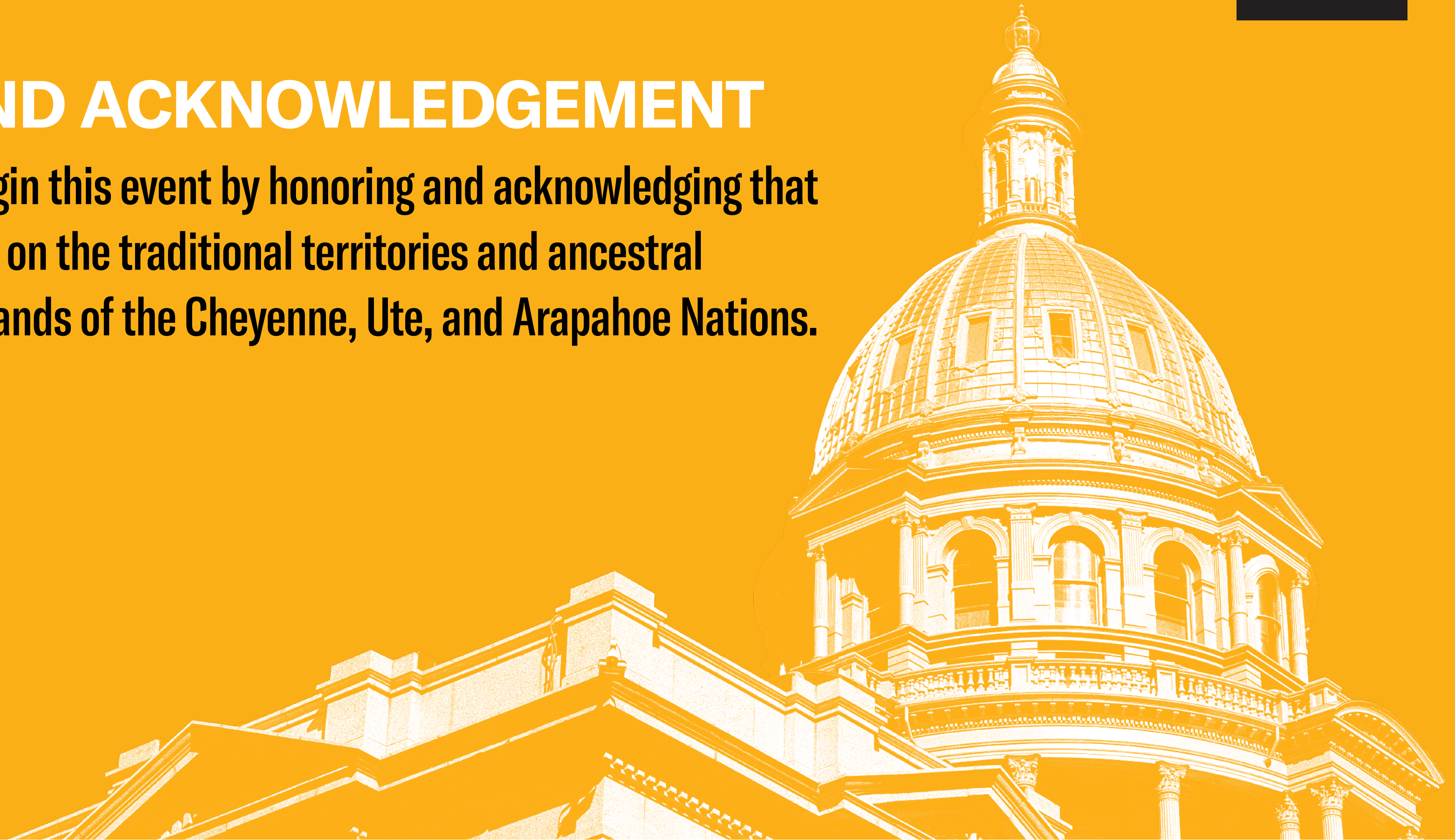
Lobbying is for the people!

April 21, 2022



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin this event by honoring and acknowledging that we are on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Ute, and Arapahoe Nations.



HOUSEKEEPING

- No breakout rooms. Engage in polls & use the chat
- Live transcript available
- Introduce yourself in the chat (name, pronouns, first word that comes to mind where you think of lobbying)
- Receive recording, slides and follow-up resources on Friday
- Culture - respect, learning, unity

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Demystify the legislative process and what it means to lobby
- Empower everyone to get involved in the Colorado legislative process
- Learn how a bill becomes a law, why state level legislation matters, what lobbying is, and how to talk to your representatives



SPEAKERS

ACLU
CO



PORTIA PRESCOTT

NAACP CO-MT-WY State Area Conference, President

she/her



ANNE BARKIS

Mendez, Barkis and Associates, Principal

she/her



TAYLOR PENDERGRASS

ACLU of Colorado, Director of Advocacy

he/him



JEN SAMANO

ACLU of Colorado, Electoral Campaigns & Organizing Officer

she/her



AGENDA

- 1. Myth-busting with Portia Prescott, NAACP CO-MT-WY**
- 2. How to Lobby with Anne Barkis, Barkis, Mendez and Associates**
- 3. 2022 Priority Bills with Taylor Pendergrass, ACLU CO**
- 4. Q&A Panel with Expert Guests**
- 5. Calls-to-Action**



Myth-busting with Portia Prescott, NAACP



WHAT IS IT+ WHO CAN DO IT

TRUE OR FALSE: Lobbying is a dirty tactic of the corrupt.

False!

Lobbying simply means having a targeted conversation that seeks to influence a lawmaker. For civil rights advocates, lobbying focuses on using storytelling strategically.

Community Lobbying

- When a constituent advocates to a lawmaker on behalf of a particular policy or cause
- Community Lobbyists are voters, constituents or advocates
- Leverage their power in position, identity, personal experiences, and community connections
- Influence by sharing or demonstrating the in-district impact and concerns

Professional Lobbyists

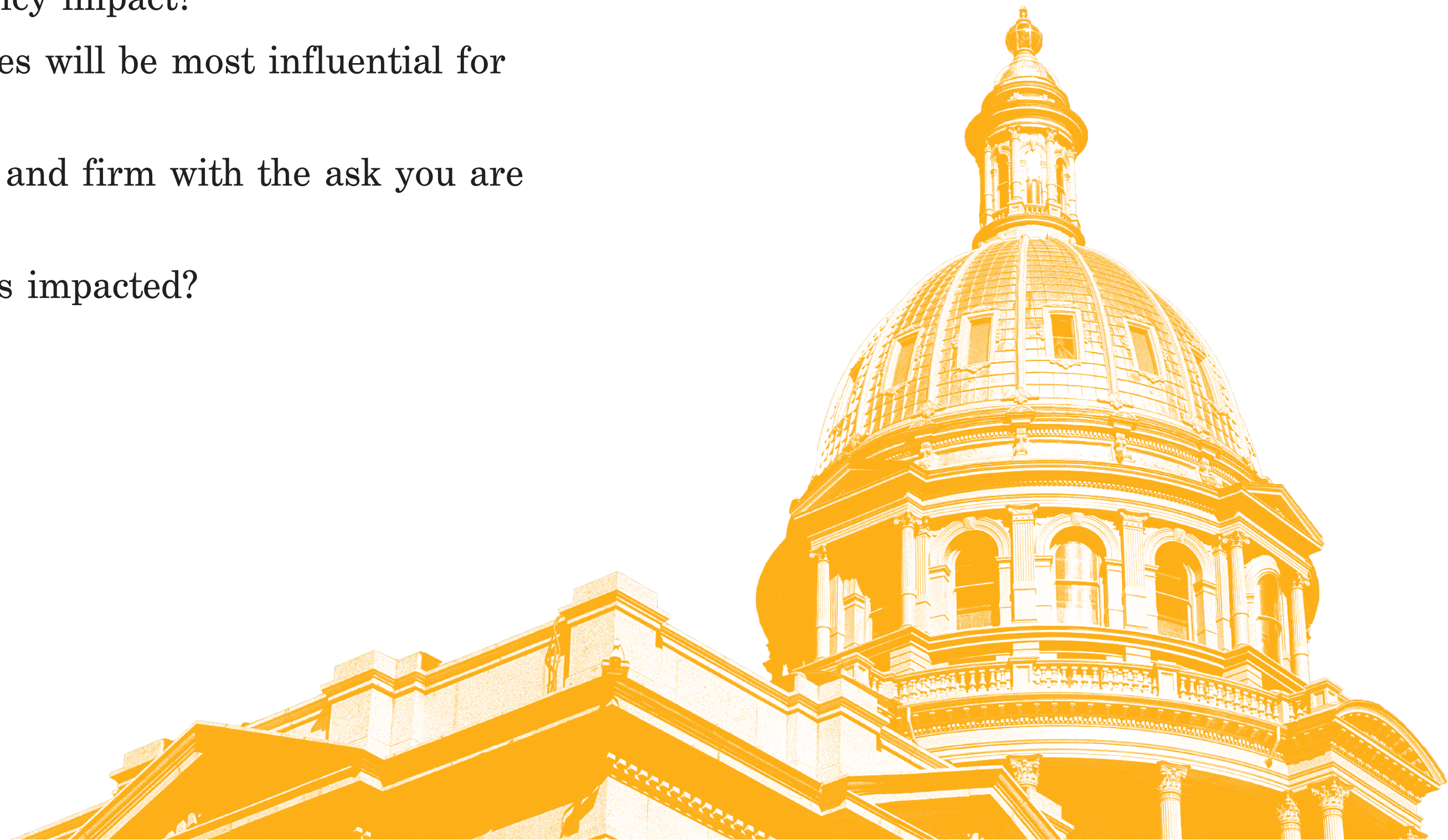
- Registered with state and following specific laws
- Represent special interests and professional associations
- Speak primarily in stats, figures, reports



WHAT IS IT+ WHO CAN DO IT

Prompts for community lobbyist

- Who are my people/who does this policy impact?
- What form of communication or stories will be most influential for this legislator?
- Know where you are going – be clear and firm with the ask you are making of your legislator
- Who else in my community cares or is impacted?



WHO GETS LOBBIED + WHERE DOES IT TAKE PLACE

TRUE OR FALSE: You can only lobby certain lawmakers.

False!

All lawmakers can be lobbied. Laws and lawmakers exist at every level of government. In our democratic system, lawmakers are elected officials and the lawmaking process is open and public.

Where?

- In-person (at the capitol, city hall, in-district)
- Virtually (email, social media)



WHY COMMUNITY LOBBYING = POWER

TRUE OR FALSE: Input from a community lobbyist can 'tip the scale' when it comes to passing legislation

True!

Community lobbyists advocating on behalf of civil rights legislation has passed good bills – and stopped harmful ones.



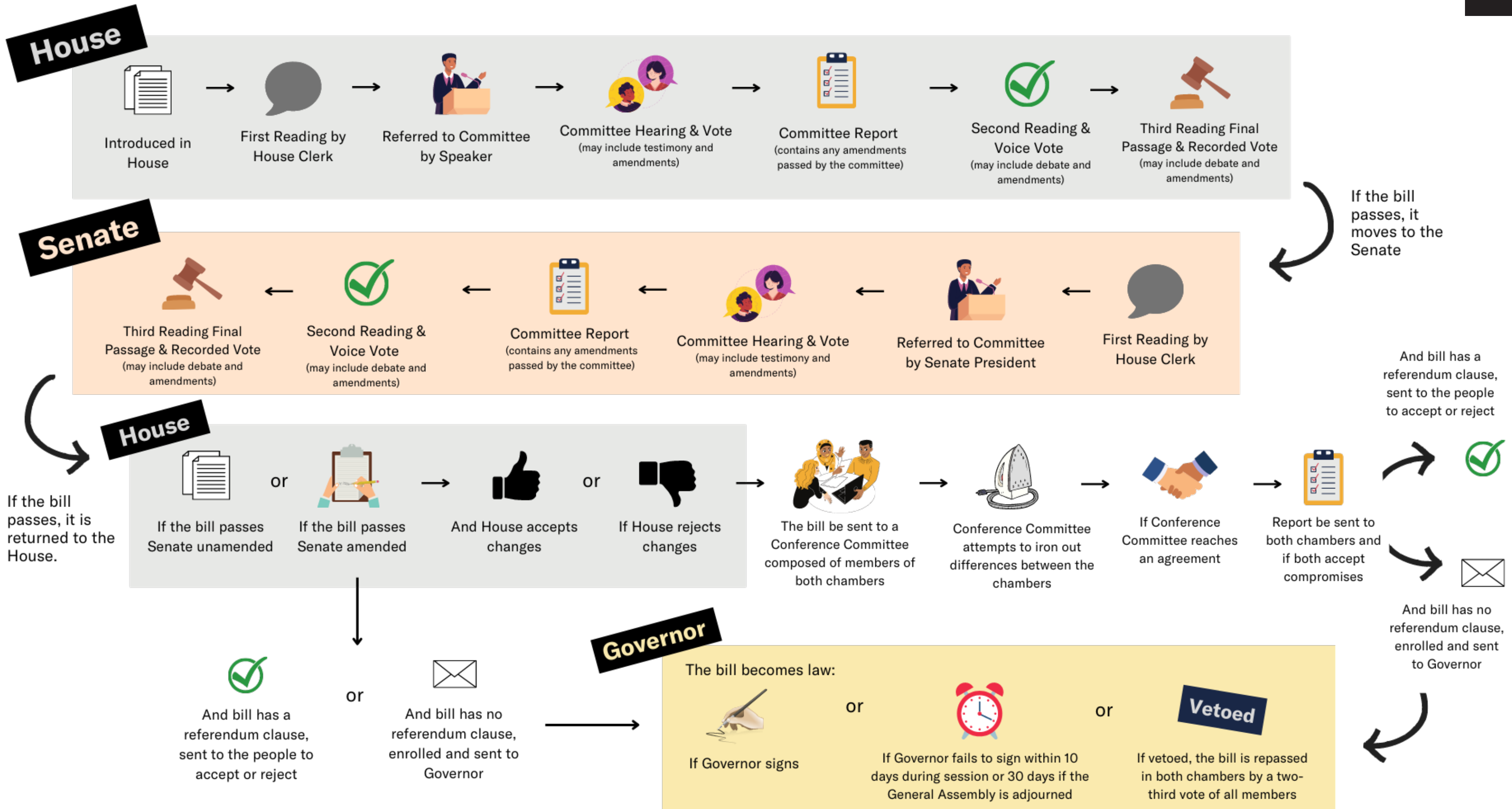
NAACP
Colorado / Montana / Wyoming
State Area Conference

How to lobby your state legislators



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN COLORADO

*Assumes Bill is a House bill. A Senate bill follows a similar process beginning in the Senate.



HOW TO LOBBY YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR

Prep + Do's and Don'ts

Preparing for a lobby meeting

1. Introduce yourself
2. Name the bill and your position
3. Specific issue talking point
4. Personal or relevant story and story
5. Make ask – support or oppose
6. Thank legislator
7. Take notes and follow-up

DO

- Prepare
- Be yourself
- Focus
- Be respectful
- Follow-up
- Be flexible

DON'T

- Be argumentative or confrontational
- Give longwinded answers
- Make multiple asks
- Speak falsely



HOW TO LOBBY YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR

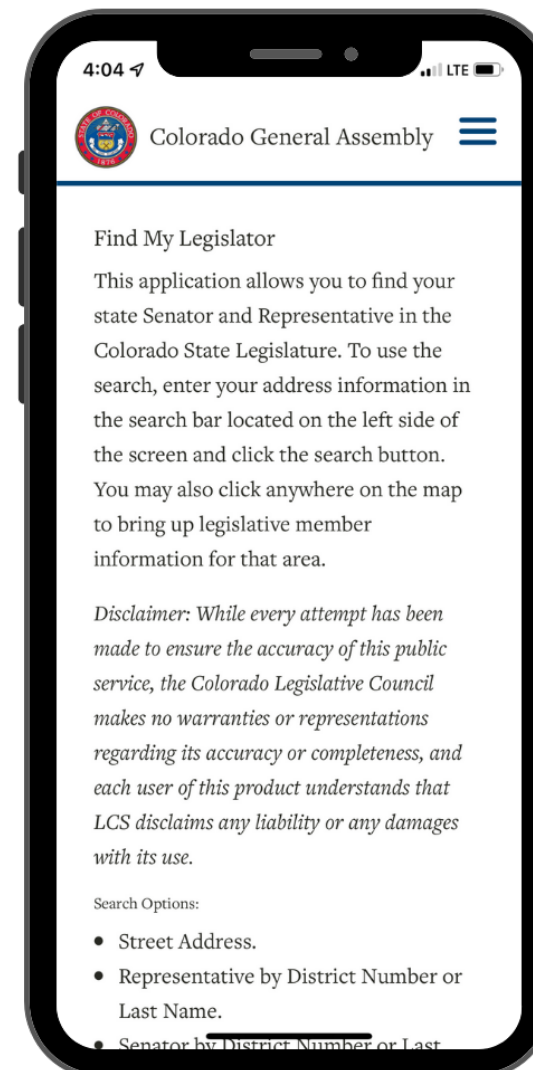
In-person

ON THE FLY MEETINGS

- At the capitol or legislative buildings
- What to expect

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- How to look up your state legislator
- What to expect



HOW TO LOBBY YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR

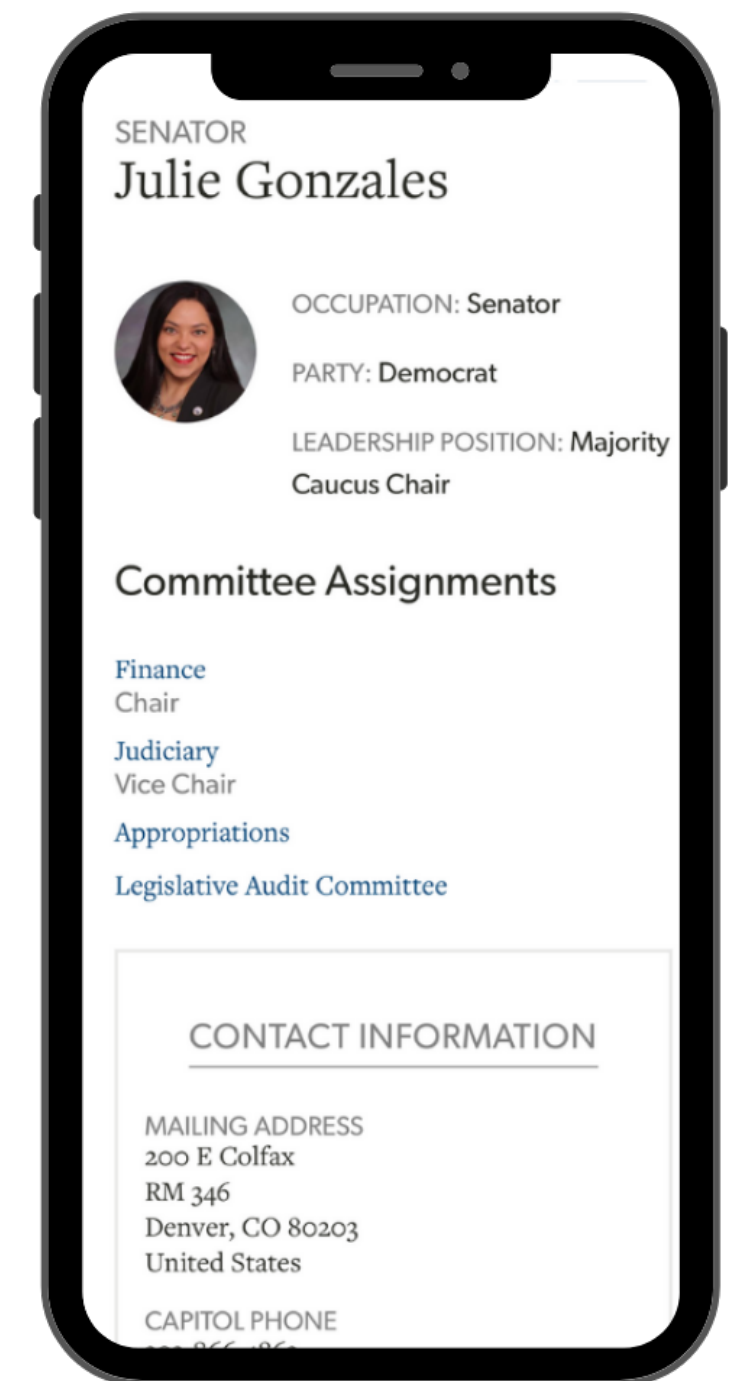
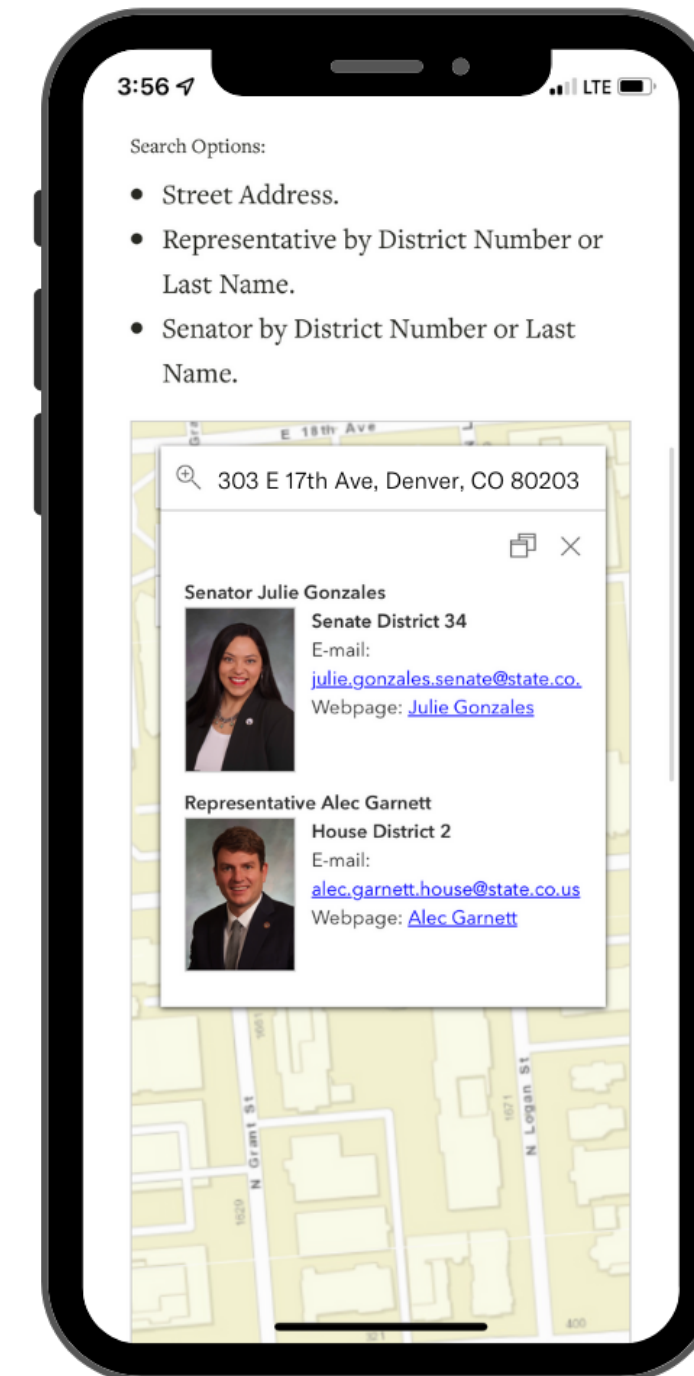
Virtually

EMAIL OUTREACH

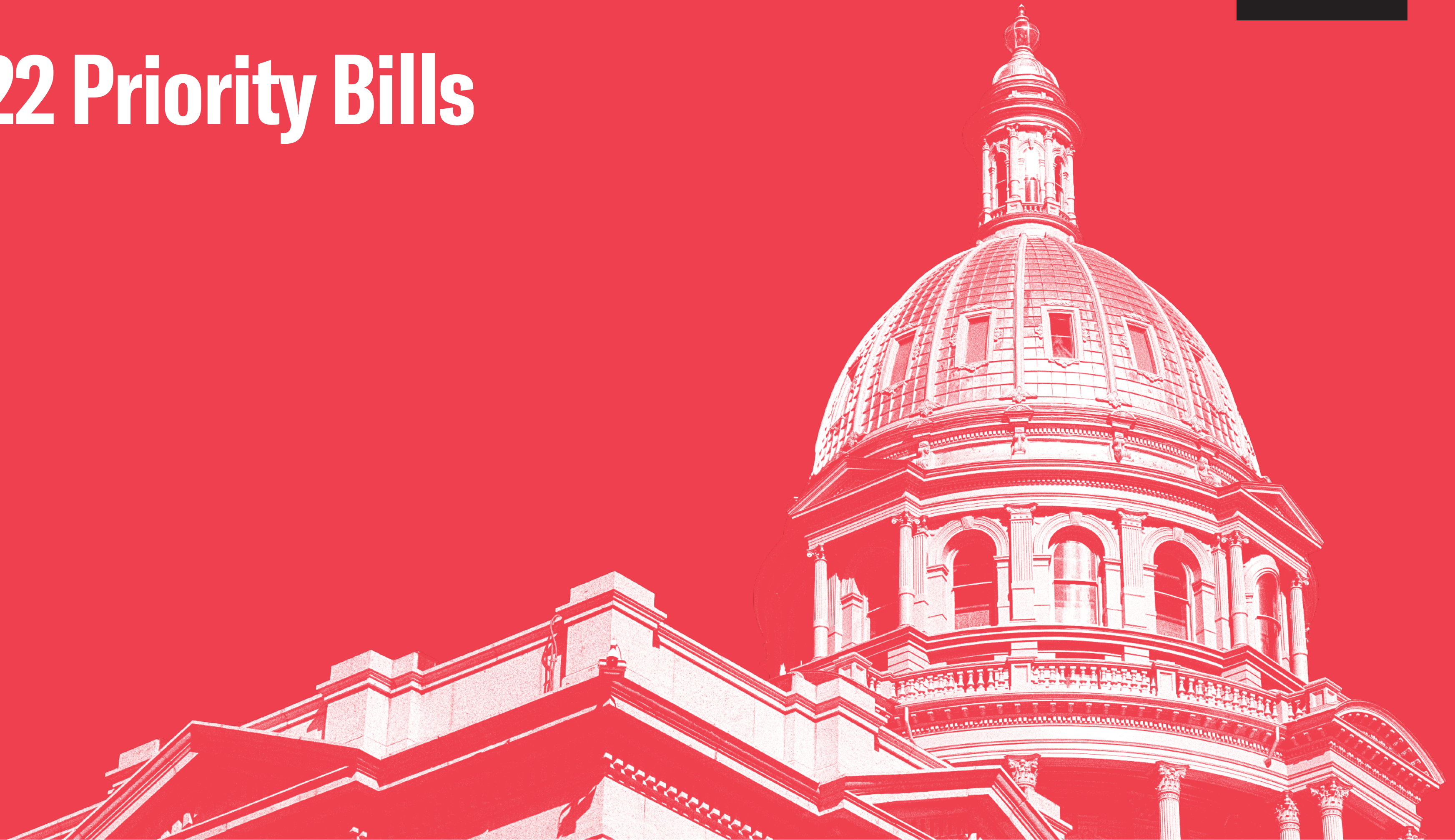
- Use legislator look up to find email addresses
- Follow the same principles as you would with in-person lobbying
- Email outreach is counted and considered at the state capitol

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Not all lawmakers use social media
- Reference the legislator look-up information
- Brings attention to lawmakers and your social network
- Follow the same lobbying principles – bring it back to the district



2022 Priority Bills



2022 PRIORITY BILLS

HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act

Issue at stake

Critical effort to protect abortion rights as Supreme Court takes up two direct challenges to *Roe v. Wade*

What does the bill do?

Protect reproductive rights (access contraception, continue a pregnancy, give »birth, have an abortion) as fundamental rights

- Led by Cobalt and COLOR Latina, ACLU CO played a support role
- Signed into law on April 4!



Bill signing ceremony on April 4, 2022 (from Senator Julie Gonzales' Twitter)

2022 PRIORITY BILLS

SB22-099 Clean Slate

Issue at stake

1.3 million Coloradans have a crime that is eligible to be sealed but only 5% successfully get their records sealed

What does the bill do?

Automatically seals records that are currently eligible (including all non-convictions, many misdemeanors, and lower-level felonies)

- Cross-ideological coalition including businesses, right and left-leaning advocates
- Next up: Passed the Senate and headed to the House



“

I have an education...
I have impeccable
work references...



They pull my
record and
I don't hear back.

- Jessica Hopf


”

”

“Getting people back to work in Colorado is critical for every industry, and passing **Clean Slate** will give employers access to an untapped pool of talented, hard-working individuals.”

Eric Miller, Managing Member,
Labor Depot LLC

25+ Colorado businesses and associations back
#CleanSlateCO.
Join them.
www.cleanslateco.org



2022 PRIORITY BILLS

HB22-1326 Fentanyl Accountability And Prevention

Issue at stake

Black Coloradans are twice as likely to be arrested for a drug offense and 12 times more likely to be wrongfully convicted than white Coloradans.

What does the bill do?

An amendment passed the House Judiciary on April 12, making the possession of as little as 1 gram of fentanyl a felony.

Felonization drives people away from seeking treatment for fear that they will be criminalized and exacerbates racial inequality.

- Next up: House Appropriations



Questions?

Add your questions in the Q&A box



Calls to Action



ACLU Call-to-Action

ACLU
CO

ACLU
Colorado

JUST SAY NO TO THE WAR ON DRUGS

We are in the midst of a horrifying public health crisis. Children, parents, and loved ones are all being killed by fentanyl.

This unprecedented public health crisis demands aggressive, bold and immediate action from our elected representatives to save lives and prevent more overdoses. But instead, lawmakers are wasting precious time debating the one thing that we know absolutely does not work: imposing harsher punishments on people who use drugs.

Fifty years of the War on Drugs has given us undeniable scientific proof that punishing people who use drugs will not reduce drug use.

Here's what harsher punishment will do: it will rip people away from their families. It will create a revolving jailhouse door instead of treatment. It will take us backward on racial justice. It will stigmatize addiction and scare people away from testing, treatment, and overdose interventions. It will cost lives and millions of dollars – it could even require opening another prison in Colorado. It will burden people who need treatment with lifelong felony records that prevent them from accessing jobs, housing and employment.

YOUR MESSAGE

Use the form to send a message to your legislator.

Subject

Leave the War on Drugs Behind

Dear [elected official],

I am writing to ask that you take bold action to effectively confront the public health crisis being caused by fentanyl. I urge you to reject any approach that would increase penalties and punishment for people who are simply possessing small amounts of drugs containing fentanyl.

The War on Drugs has proven that harsher punishments do not save lives, or reduce the use or supply of drugs.

Ratcheting up penalties will exacerbate racial injustice. It will imprison people who need treatment. It will cost Colorado tens of millions of dollars, and even require opening another prison. It will rip families apart by triggering draconian

I ask for your pledge that any law addressing this public health crisis will focus on prevention and treatment, and that you will oppose any increase in penalties for people who simply possess small amounts of drugs containing fentanyl.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[First Name] [Last Name]

YOUR INFORMATION

All data you enter here will be shared with the message recipient along with your message, per our [privacy statement](#).

Salutation *

(required by some officials)

- Select -

First name *

Last name *

E-mail address *

Address *

Address Line 2

City *

State *

- Select -

Zip Code *

Phone *

Phone Type *

What does this action alert do?

Sends emails to key legislators to say no to re-felonizing fentanyl possession.

What do you need to do?

- Personalize the message in the type box
- Share the link with your networks

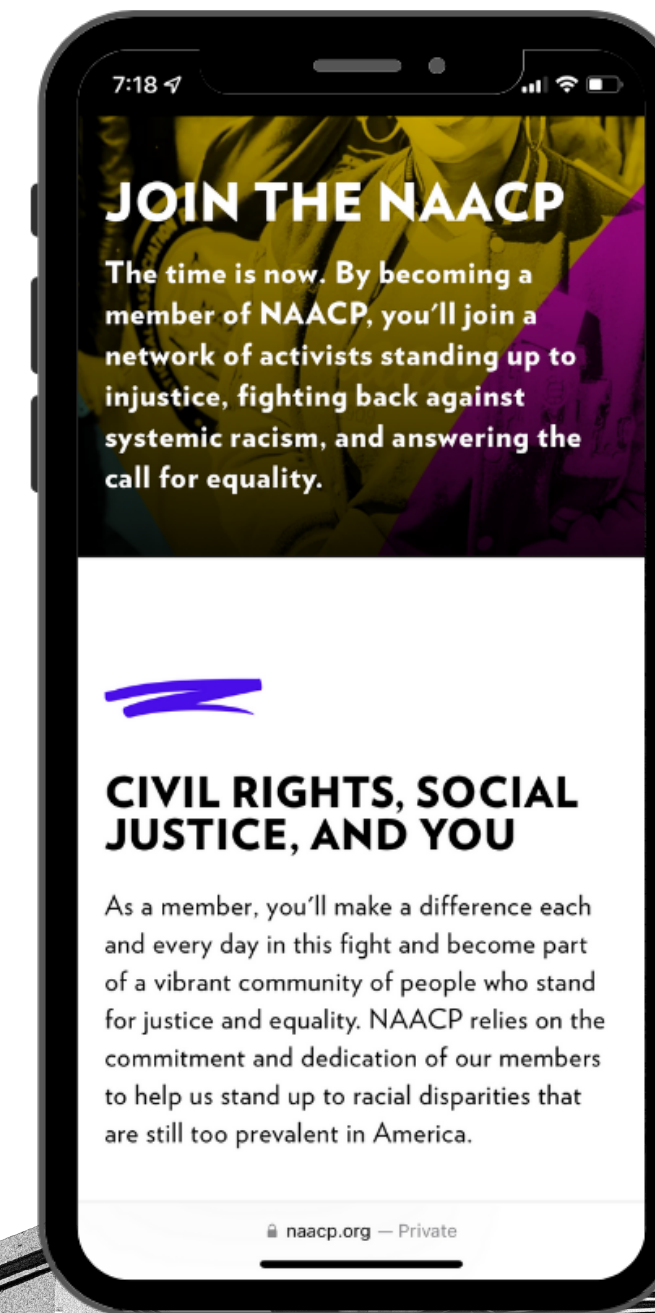
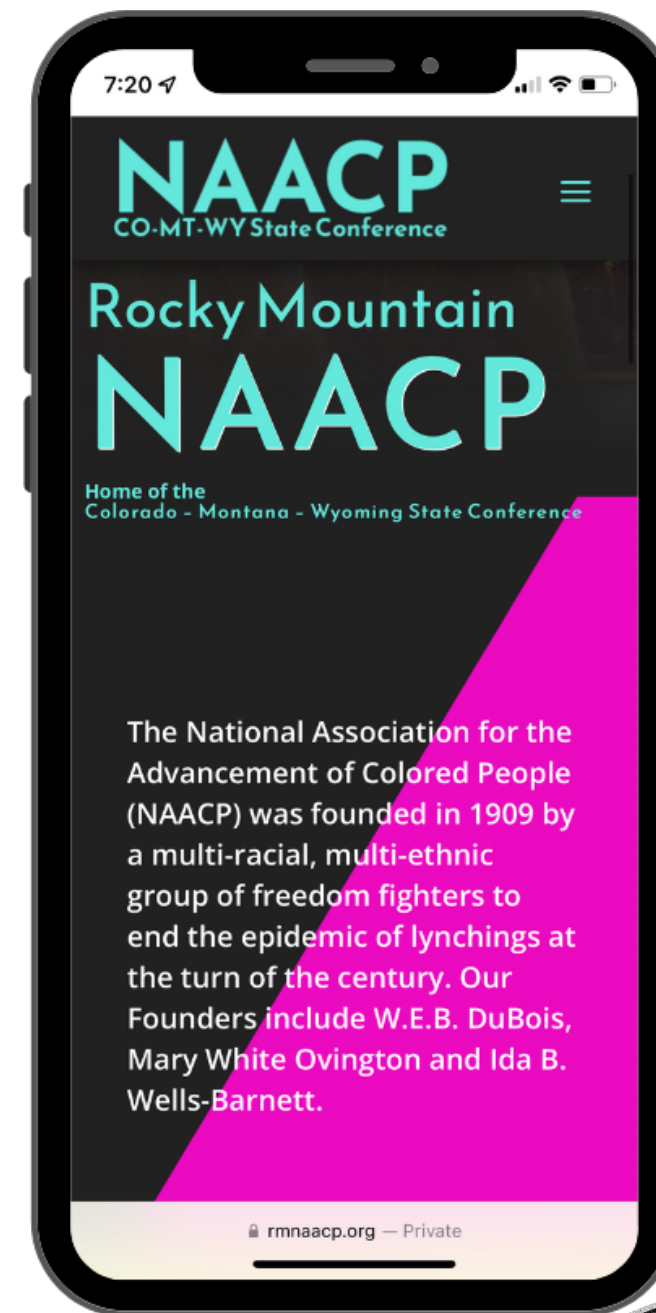


NAACP Call-to-Action

Follow NAACP on social media for legislative updates and action alerts

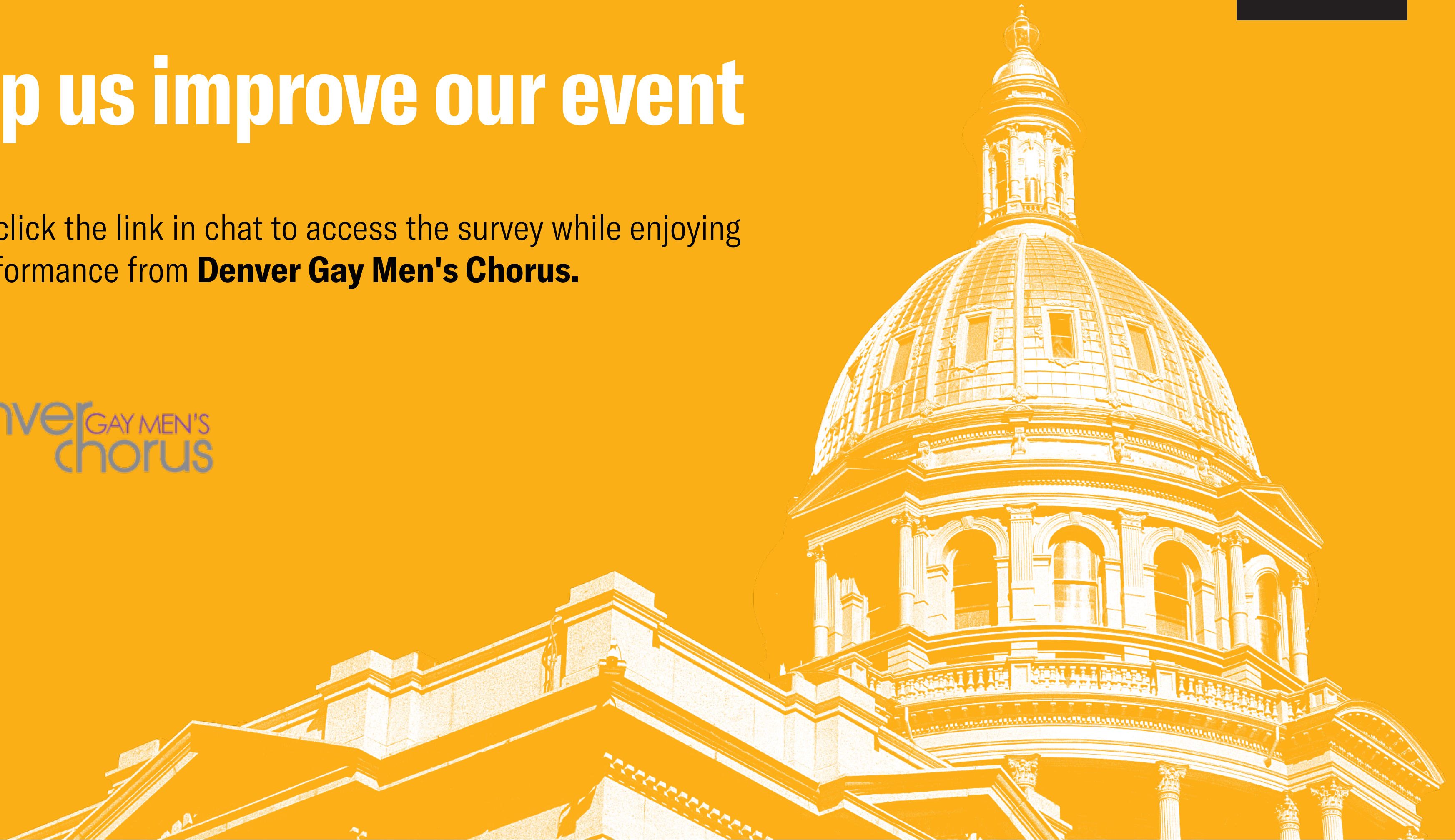


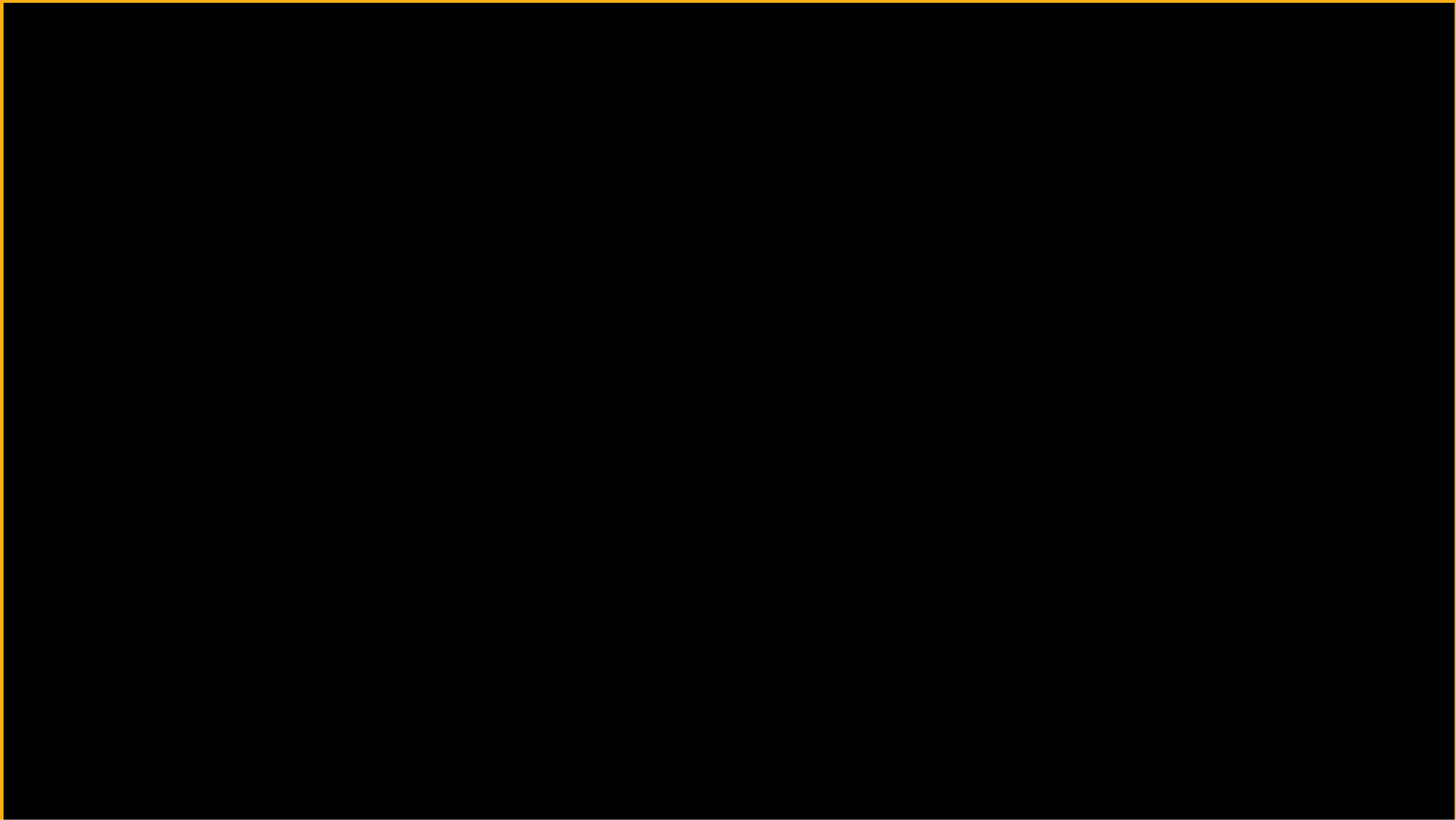
Become a NAACP member



Help us improve our event

Please click the link in chat to access the survey while enjoying the performance from **Denver Gay Men's Chorus**.





Join our Capitol Tour tomorrow!

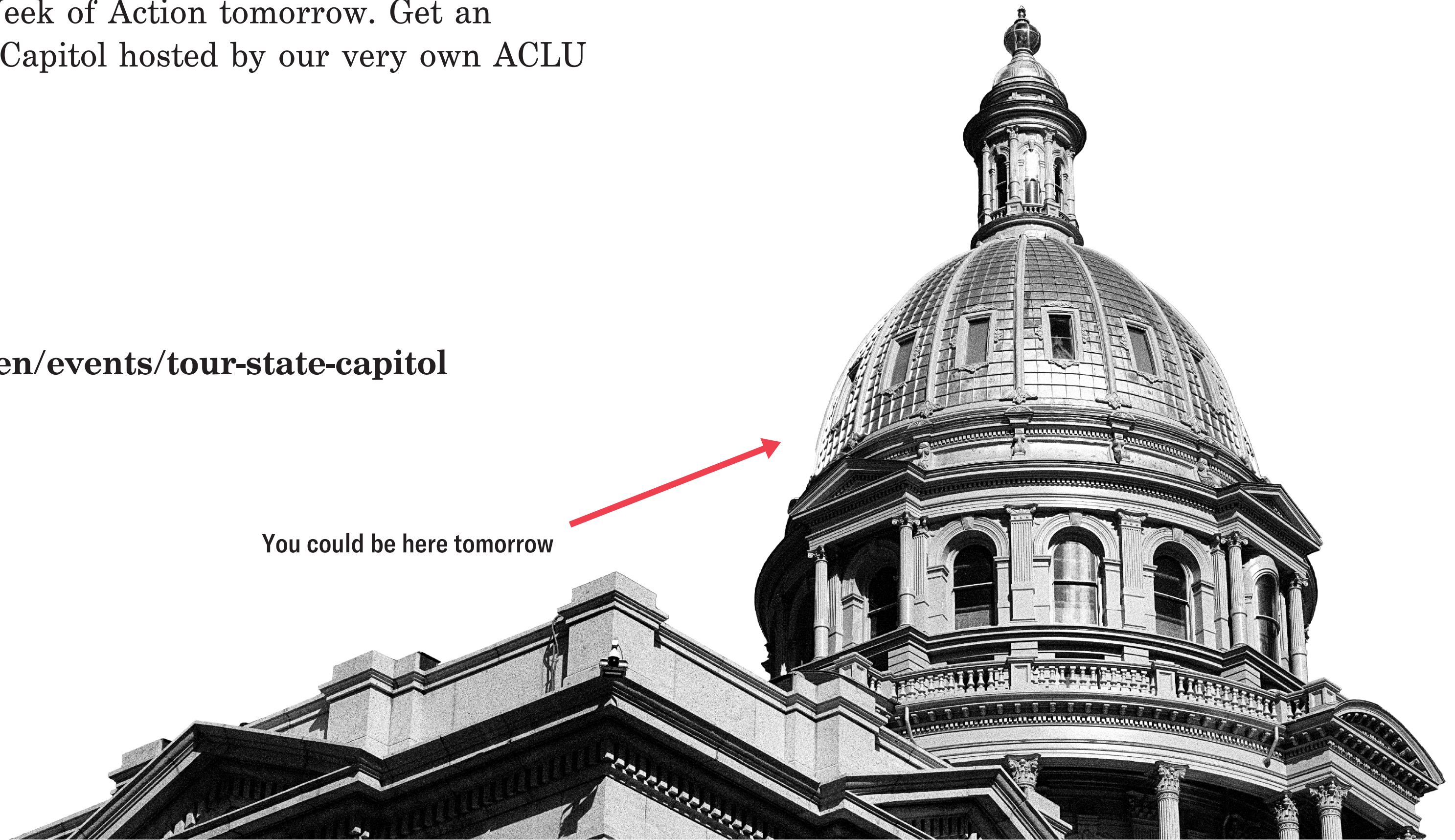
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THANK YOU!

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