



Interested Coloradans:

I'm sure you were all as surprised as I was to wake up this morning to no snow! While it's not the nicest of days here in Douglas County, there certainly aren't the inches of snow that were predicted yesterday.

Unfortunately, other areas of the state are taking the brunt of the storm, including some of the agricultural communities that have already been hit by a difficult winter.

A SPECIAL SALUTE

I want to thank Republican Rep. Stella Garza Hicks for bringing her [resolution](#) forward on Monday to honor those who are serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, and those who lost their lives in that service.

The tribute was very moving and we were honored to have the chance to personally thank the family members of so many of our soldiers and our fallen heroes.

Please keep all of our servicemen and women, and their families, in your hearts and prayers.

RIGGING THE PLAYING FIELD

Democrats are currently in control of both the legislative and executive branches of Colorado government, and it looks like they'd like to keep it that way. Maneuvering this week with Colorado's Campaign Finance Law will likely tilt our system to favor the left.

On Thursday, the Democrat-controlled House gave initial approval to [House Bill 1323](#), by Democrat Rep. Gwyn Green. The bill further restricts the ability of limited liability companies to participate in the political process, making it harder for the business community to make their positions heard by the voters.

That same day, a Democrat-controlled committee made it easier for left-leaning union bosses to influence voters. The committee voted to terminate a ruling by the [secretary of state](#) that required unions to gain permission from members before taking their dues for use in political campaigns. Now, unions will be able to tap the dues of their members from all over the country, without their permission, and pump unlimited amounts of money into Colorado campaigns.

Clearly union bosses care less for their members and more for themselves. We saw this earlier with the [bill](#) that would have made it easier for unions to be forced onto employees. We are now seeing it again with my [bill](#) to protect the personal information of casino workers, much like we protect that information for teachers. Both groups must apply for a license through the state, but currently the information is kept confidential for teachers but not for casino workers. This puts them in a potentially dangerous situation.

So why would the unions try to kill such a common-sense bill? Because they use the information to contact and recruit casino workers in their effort to unionize the profession.

LOWERING THE BAR

So what exactly does a high school diploma mean? Democrats on the House Education Committee killed [Senate Bill 131](#), saying it certainly doesn't mean a student has taken four years of math and science. Now, they say it doesn't even mean that a student is proficient in the English language.

On another straight party-line vote, Democrats on the House Education Committee voted down another education proposal, [SB 73](#), to give a high school diploma in Colorado some meaning.

Are we really asking too much? Good grief.

Special thanks to the Democrats who agree and see the sense in such an important measure, including the bill's sponsors Rep. Michael Garcia and Sen. Chris Romer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The deadline for filing taxes is only a few days away. Incredibly enough, the average person in Colorado works 112 days just to make enough to pay state and federal taxes.

The Front Range Showcase is at the Douglas County Events Center today and tomorrow. Stop by to show your support for Douglas County's business community. The Events Center is located at 500 Fairgrounds in Castle Rock.

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