Mt. Yale, Colorado. Photograph by Duncan Forbes.
It is wrong to have different punishments and procedures for the same crime.
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Dear Friends & Supporters,

Welcome to the third annual *Eye on Colorado*, the ACLU of Colorado’s 2007 Legislative Scorecard. As you read through the report you will see the breadth of legislation that we review, watching for impacts on civil liberties and civil rights.

We followed 75 bills this year and we delivered formal testimony for or against 25. As you peruse the list, you may notice that many of the bill titles have no clear connection with civil liberties. Such is the nature of the legislative process; amendments of all sorts can be added to nearly any bill. In other cases, the subjects are so broad that civil liberty issues comprise merely one facet of the bill and the connection becomes apparent only after reading the fine print.

In addition to monitoring and testifying on bills conceived and proposed by legislators, this year we expanded our efforts to initiate legislation. Over the course of the session, the ACLU of Colorado spearheaded two bills and one resolution. Though we didn't win them all, when it comes to politics, two out of three ain’t bad.

Our first victory came in the classroom. You may recall last year’s uproar over a geography teacher who was required to take down his wall display of foreign flags. We worked successfully to help pass HB 1050, which prevents such an unwarranted intrusion into a student’s learning environment.

We also worked to inform Coloradans about the threats the federal Real ID Act will present to our privacy, security and our state’s treasury. Working with Representative Pommer and others, a resolution (HJR 1047) was introduced calling upon Congress to repeal the Act and declaring that Colorado would not implement the Act. The resolution passed both the House and the Senate unanimously, proving that Colorado’s legislators are willing to put aside partisanship for this important issue.

Our major disappointment was the loss of a provision granting parolees a right to vote. Senator Groff introduced the measure as an amendment to an elections bill (SB 83). It passed the Senate but stalled in the House. We shall be back with this issue next session; it’s an idea whose time has come.

Beyond those three issues, the ACLU of Colorado had many more successes this year. We fought to end employment discrimination against LGBT individuals and helped Colorado workers gain better access to courts for wage claims. We helped defeat abstinence-only programs and instead put science-based sex education in public schools. We also fought bills that would have created one set of laws for citizens and another set for people suspected of being undocumented, reminding legislators that it is wrong to have different punishments and procedures for the same crime.

I hope this *Eye on Colorado* is informative and even —just maybe— enjoyable. Thank you for your interest and your support. It is essential to our ability to protect your liberty and that of future generations.

Sincerely,

Cathryn L. Hazouri
Executive Director
Key Terms

HB: House Bill
SB: Senate Bill
HJR: House Joint Resolution – originated in the House and sent to the Senate.

Active Support: The ACLU of Colorado actively lobbied or testified for the passage of the bill.

Passive Support: The ACLU of Colorado supported the bill but did not lobby or testify for it.

Active Oppose: The ACLU of Colorado actively lobbied or testified in order to prevent the bill’s passage.

Passive Oppose: The ACLU of Colorado opposed the bill but did not lobby or testify against it.

Monitor: The bill did not have a clear positive or negative impact on civil liberties, yet it had the potential to affect them.

Active Monitor: The bill did not have a clear positive or negative impact on civil liberties, yet it had the potential to affect them. The ACLU of Colorado testified due to this potential.

Postponed Indefinitely: The bill was defeated in committee before going to a legislative floor vote. These bills are not recorded on the legislative scorecard.

Vetoed by the Governor: The bill passed both houses of the Colorado legislature but the Governor rejected the bill and it did not become law.

Signed by the Governor: The bill passed both houses of the Colorado legislature and the Governor approved the bill, therefore it is now Colorado law.

This symbol denotes that the bill is recorded in the Scorecard.

Note: All bills are disposed of when the legislative session ends.
Death Penalty

“One reason the death penalty presents such a clear Eighth Amendment violation is that it is routinely imposed based on wholly improper factors, such as race, class, venue, the quality of counsel, whether the defendant is a resident of or a visitor to the jurisdiction in which the case is tried. Unequal justice is no justice at all.”

-Capital Punishment Project

“Someone who murders a white is four to five times more likely to receive a death sentence than someone who kills a black.”

-The American Civil Liberties Union

HB 1094: Capital Crimes and Cold Cases

Sponsored by Rep. Weissmann

This bill would have repealed Colorado’s death penalty and would have applied the financial savings to investigate “cold cases” (unsolved murder cases).

Position: Active support – The ACLU of Colorado opposes the death penalty. Colorado currently spends $794,445 in legal costs on capital cases each year. Applying these funds to investigate cold cases would have been a more efficient way of spending monetary resources, would have helped solve other crimes, and would have saved courts time and money that could have been used to help solve cold cases.

Current Status: Defeated on House Floor

Education

“Findings from [a 2007] study provide no evidence that abstinence programs implemented in upper elementary and middle schools are effective in reducing the rate of teen sexual activity.”

-Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

“Good quality sexual health programs help delay first intercourse and protect sexually-active youth from pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.”

-Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States

✔ HB 1292: Science-Based Standards for Sex Education


This bill sets science-based content standards for public school districts that offer classes on sexual education. It also requires Medicaid funded family teen-pregnancy-prevention programs and drop-out-prevention programs that offer instruction on human sexuality to offer comparable curricula.

Position: Active Support – This bill works to guarantee that students receive education on human sexuality that is supported by scientific evidence. This information will help them better understand and make informed decisions about human sexuality.

Current Status: Signed by the Governor

Colorado currently spends $794,445 in legal costs on death penalty cases each year.
SB 138: Public School Religious Bill of Rights

Sponsored by Sen. Schultheis & Rep. Lundberg

This bill would have required the State Board of Education to adopt and distribute a “religious bill of rights” for students and parents and another for teachers and school employees. It permitted students and teachers to opt out of courses on religious grounds.

**Position:** Active Oppose – This bill would have permitted public school teachers to refrain from teaching any material that violated their religious beliefs. Thus, a government employee could promote one religious belief over another by tailoring his or her curriculum to accommodate his or her personal religious beliefs, violating the First Amendment. This bill also could have forced schools to endure the extra costs to find and hire substitute teachers for certain curricula.

**Current Status:** Postponed Indefinitely

HB 1313: Evidence for Identity Documents


This bill would have increased the number and clarified the type of documents used to prove legal residency as well as established rules and procedures for cases in which people are denied recognition of legal residency. It would have required the Department of Revenue to hold a timely hearing for individuals who request a hearing upon being denied recognition.

**Position:** Passive Support – In 2006, a bill was passed that created excessive documentation requirements and placed an unnecessary burden on elderly, disabled, low-income and minority people to prove legal residency. HB 1313 would have established a fair and comprehensive list of documents that could be used to prove legal residency and would have guaranteed due process for people denied recognition. If HB 1313 had been signed, it would have helped to ameliorate the unjust effects of the 2006 bill.

**Current Status:** Vetoed by the Governor

It is wrong to have different punishments and procedures for the same crime.

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“Laws such as the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 were enacted to make voting easier and create a more inclusive democracy. Contrary to the spirit of these federal laws, proof of citizenship requirements make both registration and voting more difficult for eligible voters.”

-National Campaign for Fair Elections

Elections and Voting

An estimated 26,200 people with felony convictions are barred from voting in Colorado. 74% of these disfranchised people are in prison, while 26% of these disfranchised people, over 6,000 people, are law-abiding citizens who are on parole and living in the community, working, raising their families and paying taxes.

-Colorado Department of Corrections. Statistical Report Fiscal Year 2004
*SB 83: Conduct of Elections, “Parolee Voting” Amendment

Amendment introduced by Sen. Groff

This amendment would have extended the rights and responsibilities of voting to persons on parole.

Position: Active Support – Parole aims to integrate felons back into society and reduce recidivism. The ACLU of Colorado believes that voting, a civic act that respects the existence of a larger social and political collective, helps to achieve these goals. Persons on parole, unlike persons on probation, are currently the only non-incarcerated population prohibited from voting.

Current Status: This amendment passed in the Senate, but was removed in the House. SB 83 was signed by the Governor, but without the Groff amendment.

*For purposes of the Scorecard, votes were tallied solely on the Groff amendment.

*SB 83 Conduct of Elections, “Proof of Citizenship” Amendment; HB1138 and SB 65

An Amendment to SB 83 introduced by Sen. Harvey, with language identical to both HB 1138 sponsored by Rep. Cadman and SB 65 sponsored by Sen. C. Gardner.

HB 1138 and SB 65 were introduced and defeated early in the session. The Harvey Amendment attempted to add the language from those failed bills to SB 83. It would have permitted “proof of citizenship” only by a limited number of acceptable documents and required individuals registering to vote to provide proof of US citizenship.

Position: Active Oppose – The ACLU of Colorado believes that this amendment, like the previous bills, would have disenfranchised elderly, disabled, low-income and minority voters, as well as people devastated by natural disasters because of the difficulty and expense of obtaining the few acceptable forms of documentation. Affirmations under oath have served to prove citizenship for decades.

Current Status: The amendment was defeated in the Senate. SB 83 passed, but without the Harvey Amendment.

*For purposes of the Scorecard, votes were tallied solely on the Harvey amendment.

Employment Rights

“Employment discrimination strikes at a fundamental American value — the right of each individual to do his or her job and contribute to society without facing unfair discrimination. Fairness in the workplace has been recognized as a fundamental right protected under federal law.”

-Human Rights Campaign
HB 1247: Attorney Fees in Wage Claim Cases


This bill increases the penalty paid by at-fault employers in wage claim cases. It also changes attorney fee provisions to make fee awards discretionary for either party and directs the courts to interpret this as the federal courts have interpreted the Civil Rights Act of 1964, making it more likely that employees, but not employers, will collect attorney fees.

**Position:** Passive Support – This bill increases the likelihood that Colorado employees will be paid for their work and that they will have access to the courts if denied proper payment.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

SB 25: Expand Employment Nondiscrimination Protection


This bill adds sexual orientation and religion to current Colorado employment anti-discrimination statutes. Sexual orientation is clarified to mean actual or perceived orientation toward lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) status. This bill exempts religious organizations (as defined in Title VII) and allows employers to enforce a reasonable dress code.

**Position:** Active Support – This bill is a similar version of a bill proposed, but vetoed during the 2006 legislative session. This bill will provide equal employment opportunities and rights regardless of sexual orientation and religion.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

SB 117: Attorney Fees - Lawful Activities Employment Cases


This bill specifies that prevailing plaintiffs in employment cases involving unlawful termination for legal activities outside of work are entitled to attorney fees and court costs.

**Position:** Passive Support – This bill protects certain activities and constitutional rights such as speech and assembly by ensuring that employers will be penalized for terminating employees for engaging in them. It also increases access to the courts and access to justice for poorer people subject to these unlawful terminations.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

Equal Rights

“Children with parents who are homosexual can have the same advantages and the same expectations for health, adjustment, and development as can children whose parents are heterosexual.”

-American Academy of Pediatrics

SB 25 will provide equal employment opportunities and rights regardless of sexual orientation and religion.
HB 1330: Second Parent Adoption


This bill gives the sole legal parent of a child the ability to specify any adult whom he or she wishes to be recognized as a second parent of his or her child. It requires a home study report for the second parent and makes clear that criminal background checks are required.

**Position:** Passive Support – This bill extends equal adoption rights to unmarried heterosexual and same sex couples and is a way to protect the rights of children.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

SB 25: Expand Employment Nondiscrimination Protection (see page 8)

Freedom of Speech

“Free speech is intended to protect the controversial and even outrageous word; and not just comforting platitudes too mundane to need protection.”

- Colin Powell

HB 1050: Display of Flags

Sponsored by Rep A. Kerr & Sen. Williams

This bill was proposed in response to the case of a schoolteacher who was reprimanded for displaying foreign flags in his classroom. The bill amends the statute that prohibits the display of foreign flags (any flag other than the US flag or Colorado flag) on public property. This bill narrows the criminal offense of displaying foreign flags to flags displayed on flag poles located outside a public building.

**Position:** Active Support – This bill protects freedom of speech and expression for all public employees, including public school teachers.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

SB 45: Fees for Providing Public Records


This bill reduces the maximum fee for copies of public records from $1.25 to $0.25 per page.

**Position:** Active Support – This bill gives greater access to public documents, which helps to ensure government openness and accountability and facilitates the freedom of the press.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor
SB 239: Budget Bill, “Paycheck Protection” Amendment

Amendment to SB 239 introduced by Rep. McNulty

This amendment would have created obstacles for state employees wishing to join a union to have dues automatically withdrawn from their paychecks.

Position: Passive Oppose – This amendment would have infringed on state employees’ free speech and association rights by placing undue burdens on them to join a union.

Current Status: This amendment was defeated in the House. SB 239 was signed by the Governor without the McNulty amendment.

Immigrant Rights

“Policy changes enacted in 1996 have made it far more difficult for undocumented immigrants to “adjust” their status — that is, to apply for residency based on family ties or other factors. Partly as a result, the total number of undocumented people is rising quickly.”

- American Friends Service Committee

✔️ HB 1040: Legal Process for Persons Not Legally Present


This bill prohibits a court from dismissing criminal charges against a person who is illegally present in the country. It requires that no bond be issued in a criminal case when the defendant is illegally present and is deported or subject to deportation. Under this bill a bond agent is unable to recover a posted bond if the defendant is illegally present and subject to deportation.

Position: Active Oppose – This bill is intended to discriminate against non-citizens. It requires that non-citizens, who are subject to deportation, pay all restitution prior to deportation, subjecting many to indefinite detention. It impermissibly interferes with federal immigration authority to deport non-citizens and requires local law enforcement to make determinations about a defendant’s legal status based on erroneous standards. Moreover, this bill is contradictory as the state already has procedures in place to ensure that non-citizen defendants appear in court.

Current Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 94: Use of Fraudulent Documents


This bill would have created a class 6 felony for using forged documents if the perpetrator were an undocumented immigrant. It disallowed bail and plea-
bargains and required the arresting officer to notify Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the arrest.

**Position:** Active Oppose – This bill would have created a harsher penalty for undocumented immigrants using forged documents than for other people using forged documents, creating an inconsistent punishment for perpetrators of the same crime.

**Current Status:** Postponed Indefinitely

**Law Enforcement and the Courts**

As of January 31, 2006, there were 28,243 people under the jurisdiction of the Colorado Department of Corrections. Furthermore, the Colorado prison population has increased by 60.4% since 1980, but the population of Colorado has only increased by 59%.

-Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

“Most incidents of sexual assault and abuse of women prisoners go unreported because of fear of retaliation by correctional staff and the vulnerability felt by prisoners.”

-National Prison Project

**HB 1054: Increase Number of Judges**


This bill increases the number of district court judges, county court judges and judges on the Colorado Court of Appeals.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

This bill will affect fifteen judicial districts and will take effect over a period of three years.

**Position:** Active Support – This bill eases the overburdened court system, enabling more efficient access to justice.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

**HB 1093: Sexual Conduct in Penal Institutions**


This bill requires that sexual assaults in state penal institutions be reported. It ensures that the records of sexual assault victims are kept confidential and that the victims receive medical treatment and are given information on sexual assault prevention. This bill requires that staff of penal institutions be trained on preventing and investigating sexual assaults. It requires the termination of a penal employee who engages in sexual conduct with an inmate. When an assault is reported this bill requires that the victim be monitored for mental health issues.

**Position:** Active Support – This bill will help to reduce the incidences of inmate on inmate and employee on inmate rape and sexual assault in Colorado prisons. In addition it will provide prisoners more access to necessary health care.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor
HB 1107: Sealing of Criminal Records


This bill would have allowed an ex-offender to request that the courts seal his or her criminal record after ten years from the date he or she completed his or her sentence, probation or parole. Offenses such as sexual assault, domestic violence and crimes involving pregnant women were excluded.

**Position:** Active Support – This bill would have ensured that the lives of ex-offenders are not hindered by a past offense for which they have served their time and paid their debt to society. It would have allowed ex-offenders to put their past behind them and live a normal life. In the instance that ex-offenders wished to seal their records, a district attorney or a judge would have the right to grant or deny the claim.

**Current Status:** Vetoed by the Governor

HB 1179: Sex Offender Location Restrictions Re: Kids

Sponsored by Rep. Balmer

This bill would have prohibited a sexually violent predator, a person convicted of two or more sex offenses requiring registration, or a person convicted of a sex offense against a child, from living or working within 1,000 feet of a school, day care facility or playground.

**Position:** Active Oppose – This bill would have created a false sense of security while infringing upon an offender’s right to live and work. It would have designated where an ex-offender could live or work. This restriction would have severely limited the rights of offenders without making children any safer. It would not have kept offenders from visiting schools, day care facilities or playgrounds.

**Current Status:** Postponed Indefinitely

SB 114: Substantive Omnibus Criminal Law

Sponsored by Sen. Shaffer & Rep. T. Carroll

This bill has a provision that makes persons convicted of drug possession more than once subject to a much higher level of punishment.

**Position:** Active Oppose – The ACLU opposes criminalizing the possession of drugs. Enforcement of drug laws tends to target minority and indigent populations and is misdirected. Law enforcement should work to prosecute drug dealers and suppliers.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

SB 136: Protection Order Modification

Sponsored by Sen. Morse & Rep. Romanoff

This bill clarifies that in civil protection order cases (restraining orders), courts can order temporary conditions of rent and mortgage payments, telephone and utility services, insurance premiums, child care

Real ID will cost over $23 billion to implement.
costs, and temporary possession of personal property.

**Position:** Monitor – This bill helps to protect victims in domestic violence disputes because it will ensure that the defendants continue to make payments that existed prior to the dispute and to uphold other legal obligations.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

### Privacy

"The makers of our constitution...sought to protect Americans in their beliefs, their thoughts, their emotions and their sensations. They conferred, as against the government, the right to be let alone – the most comprehensive of the rights and the right most valued by civilized men."

-Louis D. Brandeis, U.S. Supreme Court Justice

"The Department of Homeland Security estimates the cost of the implementation of the Real ID will exceed $23 billion."

-National Conference of State Legislatures

**HJR 1047: Resolution to Oppose Real ID Act**


In May of 2005, the United States Congress passed the Real ID Act. The Act creates a national ID card and imposes an array of regulations on the card components and on how the cards are verified. HJR 1047 is a non-binding resolution that expresses the state legislature’s opposition to implementing the Real ID Act, calls for the Act to be repealed, and prohibits the passage of any state laws designed to implement the Act.

**Position:** Active Support – The Real ID Act is a costly, unfunded federal mandate. The Department of Homeland Security estimates that the cost of implementation will exceed $23 billion. To create the ID cards, the government will compile personal information into a national database that is extremely susceptible to identity theft and is a potential violation of the right to privacy.

**Current Status:** Adopted and sent to President Bush and the Colorado Congressional Delegation

**HB 1245: Driver’s License Office Performance**

Sponsored by Rep. B. Gardner

This bill would have imposed a $1 surcharge on the issuance of driver’s licenses to both adults and minors during the fiscal year 2007-08. The surcharge would have been used to improve all driver’s license offices in the state by enhancing customer service and would have reduced wait times in driver’s license offices.

**Position:** Active Monitor – The $1 surcharge would have improved driver’s license offices. However, the bill did not take into account the Real ID Act, which will require a dramatic increase in the number of DMV personnel and facilities for state compliance.

**Current Status:** Postponed Indefinitely
HB 1326: Sex Offenders to Provide Electronic Communication Information

Sponsored by Reps. A. Kerr and Swalm & Sens. Sandoval and Johnson

This bill requires all registered sex offenders who sexually assaulted a child to register all email addresses, instant messaging identities and chat room identities prior to using the address or identity. All collected information will be posted on the Colorado sex offender registration website, but employment emails will not be listed.

**Position:** Monitor – This bill is an improved version of a previous bill which the ACLU of Colorado opposed. This new bill is more specific because it only targets those offenders who have committed a sexual assault against a child and protects people from employment discrimination.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

**Religious Liberty**

“The government must pursue a course of complete neutrality toward religion.”

-John Paul Stevens, U.S. Supreme Court Justice

SB 138: Public School Religious Bill of Rights (see page 6)

**SB 153: Enforce Orders of Local Health Officer**

Sponsored by Sen. Morse & Rep. Frangas

This bill requires that local health officers respect the religious beliefs of persons subject to isolation or quarantine orders, provided that authorities comply with sanitary and quarantine laws.

**Position:** Active Support – This bill safeguards the religious liberty of persons subject to isolation and quarantine orders.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

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**HB 1343: DNA Testing for All Felons**


This bill expands mandatory DNA testing to all adults who were convicted of certain crimes listed in the bill, but have been released on parole or probation. This bill extends the same testing to all juveniles convicted of equivalent crimes and committed to the Department of Human Services or on probation.

**Position:** Active Oppose – The ACLU of Colorado opposes the creation of mandatory DNA testing because it applies regardless of whether the crime involved property or violence against a person. This bill allows personal information to be stored in a large database that is extremely susceptible to misuse. The misuse of the Census Bureau database aided the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

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**HB 1343 allows personal information to be stored in a large database that is extremely susceptible to misuse.**
Reproductive Rights

“[Emergency contraception](EC) was responsible for approximately 43 percent of the decrease in the number of abortions from 1994 to 2000. If more widely available, EC could prevent 1.7 million unintended pregnancies and 800,000 abortions each year in the United States alone.”

- Planned Parenthood

✅ HB 1292: Science-Based Standards for Sex Education (see page 5)

✅ SB 60: Emergency Contraception for Survivors of Rape


This bill requires hospital emergency rooms to notify victims of sexual assault of the availability of emergency contraception. It permits individual employees to refrain from providing the information, but does not permit the hospital to refrain.

**Position:** Active Support – This bill helps women, specifically sexual assault survivors, to make informed choices concerning their reproductive health.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

SB 143: Abortion Ban


This bill would have made performing an abortion a class 3 felony.

**Position:** Active Oppose – This bill would have infringed on a woman’s constitutional right to have an abortion.

**Current Status:** Postponed Indefinitely

✅ *SB 239: Budget Bill, Amendments Restricting Reproductive Rights

Amendments introduced by Rep. Lundberg and Sen. Harvey

These separate but identical amendments would have prohibited any person or entity that performs abortions from receiving state funding for family planning services.

**Position:** Active Oppose – The ACLU supports access to reproductive health care and a woman’s right to choose. These amendments would have limited women’s access to basic reproductive health care services.

**Current Status:** These amendments were defeated in both chambers. SB 239 was signed by the Governor but without the Lundberg and Harvey amendments.

*For purposes of the scorecard, votes were tallied solely on the Lundberg amendment (in the House) and the Harvey amendment (in the Senate).

SB 143 would have made performing an abortion a felony.
# House of Representatives Scorecard

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Key:  ● = Supports the ACLU position  ○ = Opposes the ACLU position  E = Legislator was excused from voting

*Lundberg Amendment*
# Legislative Scorecards

## House of Representatives Scorecard

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*Lundberg Amendment

**Key:**
- ● = Supports the ACLU position
- O = Opposes the ACLU Position
- E = Legislator was excused from voting

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Eye on Colorado 2007 Legislative Scorecard for Civil Liberties | ACLU of Colorado
### Senate Scorecard

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<td>Shaffer, Brandon</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spence, Nancy</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>6/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takis, Stephanie</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>14/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapia, Abel J.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor, Jack</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>6/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tochtrop, Lois</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>12/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tupa, Ron</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veiga, Jennifer</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>11/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward, Steve</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>4/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiens, Tom</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>2/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams, Suzanne</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windels, Sue</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>12/14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key:**
- ● = Supports the ACLU position
- O = Opposes the ACLU Position
- E = Legislator was excused from voting
- ◆ Groff Amendment
- ◆ Harvey Amendment
- ■ Harvey Amendment
Take Action

Don’t rely on someone else to do it.

Contacting your legislators is one of the most effective ways of ensuring that your views are heard and of encouraging them to take the action you want. To find out who your representatives are, as well as to access their current contact information, please visit the website for Project Vote Smart, www.vote-smart.org.

Delivering your Message

To communicate your message effectively you must have some knowledge and passion about the topic. Try to relate the issue to a real person or real situation, that is, speak from the heart. Keep the discussion relevant to the legislator’s district or area served, and make sure to ask him or her to get on board and become involved. Be polite.

Writing Your Elected Representative

Letters and faxes are extremely effective ways of communicating with your elected officials. Your one letter has the impact of 10 or 20 letters, because legislators believe that each letter represents many other constituents who did not take the time to write. Emails are not as effective.

Meeting with your Elected Representative

From your local city council to your Senators in Washington, meeting with your elected officials about civil liberties issues is a lot easier than most people think.

Remember, your legislators work for you! You can arrange a meeting to tell your elected representative what you think about a certain issue or bill, and to try to get him or her to take action on that issue.

State Legislators have offices in the Capitol building in Denver, or you can call them using the telephone numbers listed on the next page of this Scorecard. You can also go to the websites provided on Page 20 to make contact or for additional information.

Writing a Letter to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are great advocacy tools. After you write letters to your members of the state legislature, sending letters to the editor can achieve other advocacy goals because they can reach a large audience. Elected officials usually monitor them, and you can bring up information not addressed in a news article. Letters to the Editor create an impression of widespread support for or opposition to an issue.

For more information on how to get involved, visit our website at www.aclu-co.org and visit the legislative section.

Important!

For alerts and news updates as we plan for the next legislative session and action alerts about legislation during the session, go to our website, www.aclu-co.org and click on the button, “Sign Up for Latest News & Updates.”
Tell Your Elected Officials
What You Think!

Colorado House of Representatives
House Information (303) 866-2904
House toll-free (888) 811-7647 (Jan-May)
www.leg.state.co.us

Colorado Senate
Senate Information (303) 866-2316
Democratic Senators (303) 865-4865
Republican Senators (303) 866-4866
Senate toll-free (888) 473-8136 (Jan-May)
www.leg.state.co.us

General Information on Bills
(303) 866-3055

Capitol Mailing Address
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Governor’s Office
(303) 866-2471
Fax: (303) 866-2003
Governor.Ritter@state.co.us

Governor’s Mailing Address
Governor Bill Ritter
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Room 136
Denver, CO 80203

The Official Site of the State of Colorado
www.colorado.gov
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"National Prison Project." ACLU. American Civil Liberties Union. 
<"Capital Punishment Project."ACLU. American Civil LibertiesUnion. .>.

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=277&invol=438>


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Mt. Yale, Colorado. Photograph by Duncan Forbes.