Eye on Colorado
2006 Legislative Scorecard for Civil Liberties

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Atop Vail, Colorado. Photograph by Ted Utter.
Most of the bills we opposed in the immigration arena would have encouraged racial or ethnic profiling, something that cannot be tolerated.
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Dear Friends and Supporters,

We have compiled our second annual ACLU of Colorado Legislative Scorecard for you, our valued friends and supporters, because of your keen interest in civil liberties and your support of the ACLU of Colorado. Thank you so much for your support. We could not accomplish anything without you.

This year’s Colorado legislative session was quite varied. While there are many groups who watch one or maybe two issues, very few organizations monitor as much legislation or focus on as wide a range of issues as does the ACLU of Colorado. We testified on about 25 of the more than 75 bills we followed. We supported such bills as ending employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, increasing access to voting, preventing restrictions on reproductive rights and more.

Perhaps the most controversial bill we opposed involved the free speech rights of protestors – the Right to Rest in Peace Act. There is a group that protests near funerals for military personnel, claiming that the deaths are retribution for this country’s support of homosexuality. The bill as introduced would have made it virtually impossible for anyone to protest closer than 500 feet from the mortuary or church if a service was being held, from the motorcade to the cemetery or from the cemetery itself.

The ACLU of Colorado believes that the bill as introduced placed too great a burden on the First Amendment, regardless of how vile the protest might be. We were able to urge legislators to amend the bill to lessen the infringements on freedom of speech.

During the regular session, the ACLU of Colorado testified on a number of bills intended to deal with illegal immigration. Most of the immigration bills we opposed would have encouraged racial or ethnic profiling, something that cannot be tolerated. Employers would avoid hiring people who looked different because of concerns that they might be immigrants, the hassle of verifying residency, or the risk and consequences of making a mistake. Our position has always been that the U.S. has the right to regulate who enters the country as a part of its sovereignty. However, once people are in this country, they have a myriad of constitutional rights that protect how they are treated.

The special session was a repeat of the regular session, focusing primarily on immigration issues. One of the most absurd bills, allegedly an attempt to prevent voting by undocumented immigrants, would have disenfranchised hundreds, if not thousands, of Colorado voters, even though there is no proof of this type of voter fraud in Colorado.

I hope you will read the Scorecard carefully to see how civil liberties and civil rights are deliberated in the Colorado legislature. Please continue your support—both financial and time—to the ACLU of Colorado. You are an important part of the effort that helps us protect and preserve the freedom of all people in Colorado.

Sincerely,

Cathryn L. Hazouri
Executive Director
**KEY TERMS**

**HB:** House Bill  
**SB:** Senate Bill

**HCR:** House Concurrent 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.

**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.

**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.

**Postponed Indefinitely:** The bill was killed in committee before going to a legislative floor vote. The votes for 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.
Education

The United States has fallen to ninth in the developed world in high school graduation rates among young adults (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development).

Among ninth-graders, approximately three in ten do not graduate on time; for African American and Hispanic students the figure is about five in ten (Manhattan Institute).

The following bills in this section are not recorded on the Scorecard but are of interest to the ACLU of Colorado.

HB 1062: Citizenship Data in Public K-12 Schools

Sponsored by Rep. Welker

This bill would have required each student enrolled in a public school district in Colorado to provide documentation of his or her country of citizenship.

Position: Active Oppose – This bill infringes on students’ right to privacy and could interfere with the right to K-12 education for all students in Colorado.

Current Status: Postponed Indefinitely

HB 1276: Public Schools in Metropolitan Districts

Sponsored by Rep. King and Sen. Hagedorn

This bill would have authorized metropolitan districts to create their own school districts and build public school buildings.

Position: Active Oppose – The ACLU believes that since public schools are largely financed through property taxes, this new system would have allowed real estate developers to create new metropolitan districts. This would in turn create new public school districts at the expense of already existing ones. Passage of this law would have allowed real estate developers to build in previously undesirable areas, since these communities could opt out of the poorer performing school districts and create their own. It could result in instant segregation.

Current Status: Postponed Indefinitely

HB 1284: Tenure Review for Higher Education Faculty Members

Sponsored by Rep. King

This bill would have required each governing board of a state institution of higher education to evaluate the entire tenured faculty periodically on several criteria. If a faculty member were to fail to meet a standard level of performance, he or she could have lost tenure or employment.

Position: Active Oppose – This bill did not provide for adequate due process and did not provide for an appeal.

Current Status: Postponed Indefinitely

HB 1062 would have required each student enrolled in a public school district in Colorado to provide documentation of his or her country of citizenship.
Elections and Voting

Turnout among potentially eligible voters in the U.S. in presidential elections is only 50-55%. By comparison, turnout is 70-75% in Canada and well over 80% in most other democracies. Even many fragile new democracies have turnout levels far higher than ours (Voting and Democracy Research Institute).

SB 170: Concerning the Conduct of Elections


This bill clarifies voter registration procedures, identification requirements and the questions voters must answer on registration forms. Specifically, this bill requires a designated election official to hold a public hearing before determining the number and locations of vote centers. It also requires election officials to submit accuracy and security procedures to the Secretary of State for review and approval. Finally, this bill allows state employees to take administrative leave with pay to serve as election judges.

Position: Active Support – This bill requires a public hearing on vote centers before they are established to meet the needs of the voters. It helps to make voting more accessible for all and helps to enforce accurate and secure voting.

Current Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 062: Overseas and Military Electronic Voting

Sponsored by Sen. Taylor and Rep. McKinley

This bill allows Colorado registered voters in uniformed services overseas to vote by electronic means such as fax and e-mail. Early in the legislative process the bill was modified to give this opportunity to missionaries as well. In its final form, it was amended to allow only those in the military to vote overseas.

Position: Amend – This bill either needed to exclude missionaries or expand the opportunity to every volunteer abroad, in order to give standard voting opportunities to all.

Current Status: Amended and signed by the Governor

SB 146: Require Proof of Citizenship to Vote

Sponsored by Sen. McElhany

This bill would have required people who are registering to vote to provide proof of U.S. citizenship.
Position: Active Oppose – The ACLU of Colorado believes this bill would have disenfranchised elderly, disabled, low-income, and minority voters because of the expense and difficulty in getting birth certificates to prove U.S. citizenship.

Current Status: Postponed Indefinitely

HCR 1009: Proof of US Citizenship to Vote

Sponsored by Rep. Schultheis and Sen. McElhany

This bill proposed to amend the Colorado Constitution to require individuals, who are registering to vote for the first time, to show proof of US citizenship in order to register.

Position: Active Oppose – The ACLU of Colorado believes this bill would have disenfranchised elderly, disabled, low-income and minority voters because of the expense and difficulty in getting birth certificates to prove U.S. citizenship.

Current Status: Postponed Indefinitely

Employment Rights

The Employment Standards Administration’s Wage and Hour Division (WHD) recovered more than $212 million in back wages owed (earned wages that were not paid) in the 2003 fiscal year – a 21% increase over the record setting amount in fiscal year 2002. The number of workers receiving back wages increased nearly 30% from the fiscal year 2002 level (www.dol.gov).

The following bills in this section are not recorded on the Scorecard but are of interest to the ACLU of Colorado.

HB 1290: Federal Employment Verification Program

Sponsored by Rep. Schultheis

This bill would have required all Colorado state employers to verify the social security numbers and work eligibility status of their applicants.

Position: Active Oppose – This bill would lead to ethnic and racial profiling because employers may avoid hiring anyone who looks like an immigrant. In addition, the databases that the state of Colorado would have used are known to be inaccurate.

Current Status: Postponed Indefinitely

HB 1342: Wage Law Enforcement by Division of Labor

Sponsored by Rep. Cerbo and Sen. Fitz-Gerald

This bill would have created a mediation board to determine if an employer failed to pay wages owed to an employee.

Position: Active Support – This bill would have helped to ensure that all employees were paid.

Current Status: Postponed Indefinitely
Equal Rights

Same-sex couples are denied over 1,000 benefits, rights, and protections that federal law affords to married, heterosexual couples, as well as hundreds of such protections at the state level (www.hrc.org).

HB 1344: Domestic Partnership Benefits & Responsibilities Act

Sponsored by Rep. Plant and Sen. Fitz-Gerald

This bill places a referendum on the 2006 November ballot that would allow eligible same-sex couples to enter into a domestic partnership and obtain some, but not all, of the benefits, protections and responsibilities afforded by Colorado law to opposite-sex spouses. These benefits would include rights to hospital visitation, health care and pension benefits, property and inheritance, all of which would provide same-sex couples a greater degree of economic and health security.

Position: Active Support – This referendum would reduce discrimination against same-sex couples.

Current Status: On the November 2006 ballot

SB 061: Legal Setting Interpreting for the Deaf


This bill transfers the oversight of interpreters for the deaf from the Division of Rehabilitation in the Department of Human Services to the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This bill also requires an interpreter to be present for the deaf at all civil and criminal proceedings, alternative dispute resolutions, mediations and arbitrations or hearings.

Position: Support – This bill helps to guarantee deaf individuals equal rights in legal proceedings.

Current Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 081: Employment Nondiscrimination Act

Sponsored by Sen. Veiga and Rep. Madden

This bill would have added sexual orientation, including actual or perceived orientation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) status, to current Colorado employment anti-discrimination statutes. This bill excluded religious organizations and allowed employers to enforce a reasonable dress code.

Position: Active Support – This bill provided equal employment opportunities and rights for all regardless of sexual orientation.

Current Status: Vetoed by the Governor
Freedom of Speech

We cannot prohibit free expression because we don’t like certain activities, nor can we suppress the speech of groups or individuals simply because we find their message distasteful. The First Amendment applies to everyone (www.aclu.org).

HB 1382: Right to Rest in Peace Act

Sponsored by Rep. Merrifield and Sen. Shaffer

This bill outlines criminal penalties for protesting at and disturbing a funeral. First, an individual can be convicted of a misdemeanor offense for interfering with a funeral if he or she is on private property within 100 feet of a funeral site and refuses to leave after being asked by the property owner. In addition, this bill increases the penalties for certain existing misdemeanor offenses if they take place near a funeral.

Position: Active Oppose – As introduced, this bill violated First Amendment rights because it was vague, overly restrictive, and was not content neutral. As passed the bill is less restrictive.

Current Status: Signed by the Governor

Immigration

Immigrants have practically no negative effect in the labor market on any person except other immigrants. The effect on wages is modest by any appraisal, and the effect on unemployment apparently is zero (www.cato.org).

Between the years 1990 and 2000, immigrants helped fuel Colorado’s quickly expanding economy by filling nearly one-quarter of the 800,000 newly created jobs, most of which were low paying and not desired by native Coloradoans (Colorado Business Review).

HB 1343: Illegal Aliens & Public Contract for Services


This bill prohibits state agencies and political subdivisions of the state from entering into or renewing any contract for services with a contractor or subcontractor that knowingly employs undocumented immigrant workers. In addition, it requires these agencies or companies to use a pilot federal database program in order to determine if their employees are documented immigrants. If a contractor is found to violate the provisions detailed in this bill, he or she could be disqualified from public contracting for two years and placed on a public list of disqualified contractors.

Position: Active Oppose – This bill could lead to racial and ethnic profiling.

Current Status: Signed by the Governor
The following bills in this section are not recorded on the Scorecard but are of interest to the ACLU of Colorado.

Exception: HB1131 is recorded on the House Scorecard.

SB 206: Prohibit Human Smuggling


This bill proposed to create a class 3 felony offense for persons who provide transportation for someone to travel, remain in, or enter Colorado “for the purpose of evading immigration laws” in exchange for money or other things of value. Amended to replace the clause “for the purpose of evading immigration laws” with “in violation of immigration laws.”

Position: Active-Amend – This bill needed to be amended in order to clarify the phrase “for the purpose of evading” because the vague language could have led to prosecutorial abuses.

Current Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 225: State Patrol Human Smuggling


This bill created a division within the Colorado State Patrol to address human smuggling and human trafficking on the highways of Colorado. Twelve new full time employees are to be assigned to this unit for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. In the next year twelve more employees will be hired.

Position: Active Monitor

Current Status: Signed by the Governor

HB 1131: Bail Bonding Agents Illegal Immigrants


This bill would have required a law enforcement agency to notify the bail bond agent if it determined that a defendant was likely present in the United States illegally.

Position: Active Oppose – The ACLU of Colorado opposed this bill because it was vague and encouraged unnecessary detention of suspects.

Current Status: Postponed Indefinitely

Law Enforcement

From 1990 to 2000, Denver averaged 3.3 civilian deaths a year at the hands of the police and ranked 6th in the nation for the number of police shootings per 100,000 residents (www.washingtonpost.com).

HB 1179: Federal Law Enforcement Peace Officers

Sponsored by Rep. Hall and Sen. Tapia

This bill allows the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to have special
agents with restricted peace officer or law enforcement authority in Colorado. These agents only have authority in limited situations including when a felony or misdemeanor is committed in their presence, or when responding to an emergency situation that is likely to involve injury or destruction of property.

**Position:** Oppose – The ACLU of Colorado opposes increased authority for federal agents to enforce state law, as federal employees cannot be held accountable in the same manner as state agents. Federal agents in joint task forces with local law enforcement claim exemption from some Colorado rules.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

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**Medical Issues**

_Under the U.S. Patriot Act the government can gain access to an individual’s medical records without notifying him or her that they are doing so (www.aclu.org)._  

The following bills in this section are not recorded on the Scorecard but are of interest to the ACLU of Colorado.

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**SB 123: Use of Lethal Force by National Guard**


This bill would have allowed the governor to issue an executive order permitting the Colorado National Guard to use lethal force in order to protect life or property.

**Position:** Active Oppose – Lethal force is inappropriate in property crimes.

**Current Status:** Postponed Indefinitely

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**SB 102: Limited Criminal Immunity for Licensed Medical Caregivers**

Sponsored by Sen. Williams and Rep. Larson

This bill grants immunity to medical professionals, who prescribe or administer painkillers to terminally ill patients, from being charged with the offense of manslaughter if their patient dies. This bill does not permit a medical caregiver to assist in the suicide of a patient.

**Position:** Monitor

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

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Under the U.S. Patriot Act the government can gain access to an individual’s medical records without notifying him or her that they are doing so (www.aclu.org).
SB 087: Duty to Report Health Condition

Sponsored by Rep. Jones and Sen. Frangas

This bill would have required individuals, who are obligated to report certain diseases or conditions to state or local health departments, to inform their patients that they must do so.

**Position:** Active Support – This bill would have notified patients about the lack of privacy of their test results.

**Current Status:** Postponed Indefinitely

SB 158: Withdrawing Artificial Nourishment or Hydration

Sponsored by Sen. Lamborn and Rep. Shultheis

This bill proposed to specify limited circumstances in which a proxy decision-maker for medical treatment may withhold or withdraw artificial nourishment or hydration for a patient who lacks the ability to make this decision for him or herself.

**Position:** Active Oppose – The ACLU of Colorado believes the government should not intrude upon personal or family end of life decisions.

**Current Status:** Postponed Indefinitely

SB 150: DNA Testing of All Felons


This bill expands mandatory DNA testing to all adults convicted of a felony who are in the custody of the Department of Corrections, community corrections and county jails, and those who are on parole or probation. In addition, this bill extends the same testing to all juveniles who committed the equivalent of a felony. The offender is required to pay for his or her own DNA test.

**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 and is susceptible to misuse.

**Current Status:** Signed by the Governor

Reproductive Rights

Since 1982, the number of abortion providers in the U.S. has declined by 30%. By the end of the 1990s, 86% of U.S. counties had no known abortion provider. Only 12% of U.S. OB/GYN residency programs required training in first trimester abortions (www.aclu.org).

Prisoners Rights

The daily count of prisoners in the U.S. has surpassed 2.2 million. Over the course of a year, 13.5 million people spend time in jail or prison, and 95% eventually return to our communities: www.prisoncommission.org
HB 1212: Prescribing Emergency Contraception


This bill would have authorized, but did not require, pharmacists to prescribe emergency contraception (EC) in the state of Colorado. In this bill EC is defined as a drug that prevents pregnancy and does not include medications that induce abortions such as RU-486 and Mifepristone.

**Position:** Support – This bill would improve access to emergency contraception so that women could prevent unintended pregnancies, including those resulting from rape or incest.

**Current Status:** Vetoed by Governor

The following bills in this section are not recorded on the Scorecard but are of interest to the ACLU of Colorado.

HB 1128: First Degree Murder of a Fetus

Sponsored by Rep. Schultheis and Sen. Lamborn

This bill would have made conducting an abortion a class 1 felony. Persons convicted of class 1 felonies may be subject to capital punishment.

**Position:** Active Oppose – This bill infringes on a woman’s right to choose if and when to have a child without government interference. The ACLU of Colorado believes that a woman should have the right to make her own medical decisions. Physicians should be free to practice medicine in accordance with their training, and with the consent of their patients.

**Current Status:** Postponed Indefinitely

HCR 1013: Definition of Pregnancy

Sponsored by Rep. Lundberg

This bill proposed an amendment to the Colorado Constitution that defines the term “pregnancy” for all purposes of state law to be “the process of gestation within a woman’s body from the point of fertilization to birth.”

**Position:** Active Oppose – This bill would have substituted a religious definition of pregnancy for a scientific definition.

**Current Status:** Postponed Indefinitely

The daily count of prisoners in the U.S. has surpassed 2.2 million. Over the course of a year, 13.5 million people spend time in jail or prison, and 95% eventually return to our communities.
# Legislative Scorecards

## House of Representatives Scorecard

<table>
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<th>Representatives</th>
<th>District</th>
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<th>HB1113 (20)</th>
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<th>HB212 (19)</th>
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**Key:**

- ● = Supports the ACLU position
- O = Opposes the ACLU position
- E = Legislator was excused from voting

*Betty Boyd was appointed to an open Senate seat; Andrew Kerr was appointed to Representative Boyd’s seat.*

Eye on Colorado/ 2006 Legislative Scorecard for Civil Liberties / ACLU of Colorado
### House of Representatives Scorecard

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

Eye on Colorado/ 2006 Legislative Scorecard for Civil Liberties / ACLU of Colorado
## Senate Scorecard

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*Betty Boyd was appointed to the seat vacated by Deanna Hanna.

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

Eye on Colorado/ 2006 Legislative Scorecard for Civil Liberties / ACLU of Colorado
There are several upcoming issues that will be on the November 2006 ballot in Colorado. These issues address a wide array of topics including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) unions, term limits for judges, legalization of marijuana, and an increase in the minimum wage. Following is a brief summary of each issue and the position of the ACLU of Colorado on the issue. We hope this synopsis helps to educate you on the upcoming ballot issues.

LGBT Ballot Issues

Marriage Amendment (#43)

This is one of two issues on the upcoming ballot that concern the LGBT community. This initiative proposes to add an amendment to the Colorado Constitution stating that only the union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Colorado. It is essentially a constitutional ban of same-sex marriage, however, same-sex marriage is already prohibited in Colorado under state law. If passed, this initiative would simply add this same marriage ban to the Colorado Constitution.

The ACLU of Colorado opposes this initiative as it further discriminates against same-sex couples, unjustly excluding them from the basic benefits that all opposite-sex married couples currently enjoy in the United States. In addition, this amendment would promote discrimination in our state Constitution, a document that is supposed to grant and protect the fundamental rights and responsibilities of all individuals rather than deny them.

Referendum I: Domestic Partnership Benefits and Responsibilities Act

If passed, this referendum would provide eligible same-sex couples with many, but not all, of the protections and responsibilities that the state now provides to married couples. These benefits would include rights to hospital visitation, health care and pension benefits, property and inheritance, all of which would provide same-sex couples a greater degree of health and economic security.

The ACLU of Colorado supports this referendum as it is intended to remedy some of the legal disparities that currently exist between committed same-sex couples and heterosexual couples. Granting same-sex couples the benefits of domestic partnership is an important step in the fight to end discrimination based on sexual orientation.

If you would like to learn more about these ballot issues and other topics concerning the LGBT community, please visit Coloradans for Fairness and Equality on the web at www.fairnessandequality.org.
Term Limits for Judges Ballot Issue

Term Limits on Court of Appeals and Supreme Court Judges Amendment (#40)

This ballot issue is a proposed amendment to the Colorado Constitution that would create four-year terms for appellate court and Supreme Court judges. It requires incumbent judges seeking another term to stand for retention at the closest general election. It also limits judges to three terms, and judges who have served ten years at one appellate court level will not be eligible to serve more time at that level.

The ACLU of Colorado opposes this initiative because it believes that judges must be free to adjudicate the law and issue opinions, without fear that they may be removed for unpopular decisions. The judicial branch must remain independent of the legislative and executive branches in order to maintain the governmental balance established in the Constitution.

Moreover, if the current ballot initiative passes, 71% of the Colorado Supreme Court and 37% of the Court of Appeals judges would be removed, and that would represent a great loss of judicial experience for the state of Colorado. In addition, the ACLU has reason to believe that this initiative will limit the pool of qualified candidates for these judgeships, which are essential to the protection of individual rights and the administration of our justice system.

Possession of Marijuana Ballot Issue

Marijuana Possession Amendment (#44)

This initiative proposes to amend Colorado statutes to legalize the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana for people 21 years of age and older. This new statutory language would take effect on December 7, 2006.

The ACLU of Colorado supports the decriminalization of marijuana for personal use because it is a victimless crime. We also consider that the current law has disproportionate effects on racial minorities and has often resulted in police searches that are obtrusive and invade personal privacy.
Employment Ballot Issue

Colorado Minimum Wage Amendment (#42)

This amendment to the Colorado statutes proposes to raise the minimum wage in Colorado to $6.85 per hour and adjust the minimum wage according to the consumer price index of the state in each subsequent year. It also states that no more than $3.02 per hour in tip income may be used to offset the minimum wage of employees who regularly receive tips. This would take effect on January 1, 2007.

The federal government has failed to increase the national minimum wage for the past eight years and the buying power of the minimum wage recently hit a 51 year low.

While the ACLU of Colorado prefers a significantly higher minimum wage than is proposed, it believes the state of Colorado needs to enact this measure in order to ensure all Colorado workers a minimum wage that will continually maintain its buying power. The ACLU of Colorado recognizes that low-income persons are at a disadvantage when trying to assert their civil liberties.

The ACLU of Colorado opposes term limits for judges because it believes that judges must be free to adjudicate the law and issue opinions, without fear that they may be removed for unpopular decisions.
The Special Session

**Bills That Passed**

**HBS 1023: Restrictions on Defined Public Benefits**

Sen. Fitz-Gerald & Rep. Romanoff

Effective August 1, 2006, this law severely limits public benefits and services to undocumented immigrants 18 years of age and older living in Colorado. Some of these services include grants, contracts, loans, professional or commercial licenses, retirement benefits, welfare, health benefits, disability benefits, public or assisted housing, postsecondary education, food assistance and unemployment benefits. In order to receive these services and benefits, individuals must prove that they are legally residing in the United States by providing a Colorado drivers license, United States military card, a Native American tribal document, or an affidavit stating that he or she is a US citizen or legal permanent resident. If an individual knowingly falsifies eligibility information he or she may be convicted of perjury in the second degree.

Although this bill limits many public services for undocumented immigrants, it will not prevent them from obtaining health care services for emergency medical conditions, emergency disaster relief, public health assistance for immunization, services provided by nonprofit agencies, pre-natal services and services that are necessary for the protection of life and safety. Also, all federally mandated services, such as K-12 education, will continue to be provided.

**Position:** Monitor

**Current Status:** Signed by Governor

**Bills That Failed**

**SBS 008: Documentation for Elector ID and HBS 1013: Documentation for Elector ID**


These two bills were repeats of two regular session bills whose underlying purpose was a larger plan to target illegal immigration in Colorado. In keeping with the original bills’ intent, both bills would have required one of six forms of identification for registering to vote: 1) a valid United States passport or a photocopy; 2) a person’s birth certificate or photocopy; 3) the person’s United States naturalization documentation or a photocopy; 4) the official number from the applicant’s certificate of naturalization, verified by the county clerk and recorder; 5) any document or method of proof of citizenship established by federal law; or 6) a Colorado driver’s license bearing an indication that the licensee is a United States citizen.

The ACLU of Colorado opposed these bills because they placed a disproportionate burden on voters without ready access to the documents.

**Position:** Active Oppose

**Current Status:** Postponed Indefinitely

The ACLU testified on 25 of the more than 75 bills we followed.
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.

It’s not necessary to travel -- all Members of Congress have one or more offices in their congressional district. If the legislator is not in the local office, there is generally a staff member at each office with whom you can meet. State Legislators have offices in the Capitol Building in Denver.

Writing a Letter to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are great advocacy tools. After you write letters to your members of Congress, or state legislator, 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 www.aclu-co.org and click on “Sign Up for Latest News & Updates.”
Tell Your Elected Officials What You Think!

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