



INDEPENDENCE
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Independent Inking

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Teachers at our FASTER training learn advanced techniques to protect themselves and students in an active shooter situation. See page 7.



We jokingly refer to it as Caldara’s first political axiom: There is nothing Republicans can’t f*** up. Sadly, Republicans in the state legislature again proved it to be true.

In all my years in politics I have never witnessed a larger betrayal of principle by Republicans than I did in this last state legislative session. Somehow, I still stupidly think that

Republicans will reduce the size of government and honor our Taxpayer Bill of Rights. Senate Bill 267, now law, raised the state’s tax and put us into debt without a vote of the people. To understand how big this betrayal is, let’s go back a few years.

In 2005, the political fight over Referendums C and D was an epic battle. Sold as a “five-year timeout” from our Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights, Ref C was narrowly approved by Colorado voters. Its debt-package companion, Ref D, was narrowly rejected by voters.

We at Independence fought Ref C hard because the real cost was a permanent ratcheting up of TABOR’s spending caps, meaning it would raise spending more and more every year without ever asking permission again. So, twelve years into our “five-year timeout,” Ref C has cost Coloradans about \$16 billion (roughly \$12,000 per family of four) and is spiraling up yearly.

In 2005, then soon-to-be-term-limited Gov. Bill Owens broke party lines and joined Democrats to craft and sell this massive taking. For that, the outgoing governor was rewarded gobs of “really maturing in office” praise from the media. Believers in small government and the party faithful were understandably livid.

But what Republicans just did on Senate Bill 267 makes Owens look like Barry Goldwater.

Senate Bill 267 is a nearly \$600 million per year tax increase and a \$1.8 billion debt package. Our Republican Colorado Senate President “matured” in office.

I must sincerely thank Bill Owens for at least treating the voters and taxpayers of Colorado with respect and transparency by bringing his tax increase and debt proposals

to the ballot. We disagreed on C and D, but he honored taxpayers enough to at least ask them.

Our current governor has said in speeches that if the nearly \$800 million per year Hospital Provider Fee went to the ballot, polling showed it would lose. The SB 267 scheme was hatched to go around us voters with the false narrative of “rural hospitals.” Because it’s just impossible to find money for hospitals in a state budget that has more than doubled in a decade.

So, what did the Dems give up in this grand betrayal? Instead of taking the entire \$800-million-per-year Hospital Provider Fee, they took \$600 million. Apparently, tough negotiation from Republican leadership means giving the Dems 75 percent of their desired tax increase without voter consent.

You might want to think twice before bringing Senate President Kevin Grantham or Sen. Jerry Sonnenberg, the bill’s sponsor, with you to haggle over your next car purchase.

I am left wondering why Grantham, who pronounced this raiding of the Hospital Provider Fee dead on arrival at the beginning of the session on multiple media outlets, on our Colorado Public Television program, and to my face privately at least twice, “matured” on the issue.

What he and eight other Republican senators did fully earned them the ugly title of “politician.”

That’s right: eight others, not seven. Senator Owen Hill voted for SB 267 in committee, but went all Pontius Pilate on the Senate floor and voted against it.

Let me thank the courageous Republican senators who stood up and voted no: **John Cooke, Chris Holbert, Kent Lambert, Kevin Lundberg, Vicki Marble, Beth Martinez-Humenik, Tim Neville, Ray Scott, and Jim Smallwood. The are all heroes.**

This betrayal has only magnified the need for the work Independence Institute does. The only way to keep those who claim to be conservative voting for conservative principles is to build a freedom infrastructure that counters the gravitational pull of the Left’s pressure machine. That’s our mission.

Think Freedom!

Independence Institute’s work is all about focusing on long-term benefits. We are a seed-planting organization that cultivates relationships, infrastructure, and ideas because we know they will one day bear fruit. But sometimes even we cannot see what kind of fruit that might be.

Two years ago this month, the Education Policy Center published its first private school profile. The piece highlighted the amazing work done every day at Arrupe Jesuit High School, a private school in Denver that serves exclusively low-income students. The profile was different from our usual work in that it focused on human-focused storytelling rather than policy facts, statistics, or arguments. It sought to break down stubborn myths about private schools as gilded sanctuaries for the rich and to frame school choice not as a philosophical idea, but as a tangible issue impacting real kids.

The profile proved popular, so we decided to publish more. The Profiles in Private Education series was born. We’ve since published three other profiles on unique Colorado private schools. We wrote about how the private sector is working to help students with special needs at the Havern School for Children with Disabilities in Littleton, about how Crossroads School in Longmont is providing an alternative educational home for students who have never fit in other environments, and about how St. Rose of Lima Catholic Academy is serving its community of low-income immigrant families in inner-city Denver. We are currently working on a fifth profile covering rural private schools in the far reaches of the state.

Each profile involves extensive interviews with leaders, teachers, students, and parents. We spend significant time at each school observing classes and soaking in the educational culture. As a result, we get to know these amazing schools—and the people who make them work—very

well. And because they are focused on the schools and their work, the profiles are as useful to the schools as they are to us. They are often used in fundraising or enrollment efforts to great effect. One donor recently wrote a check for \$10,000 to a school after reading one of our profiles.

This relationship building has resulted in strong alliances with our partner schools that have far exceeded our expectations. In many ways, we’ve become a part of these schools’ educational families. For instance, Arrupe students and leaders have joined us on *Devil’s Advocate with Jon Caldara*. We are also regularly invited to attend Arrupe Jesuit events, and we were recently at the school to film a story about its work with the Independence Institute for State Policy Network. We even took an Arrupe Jesuit student named Demarco as an intern through our role as a partner in the school’s Corporate Work Study Program.

DeMarco’s primary interests are in media and broadcasting—areas that we are intimately familiar with. During his time at the Independence Institute, DeMarco starred in numerous videos for social media advertising campaigns, spoke in favor of school choice in front of a crowd of nearly 1,000 people on the steps of the Colorado Capitol, and published an opinion piece in a major Colorado newspaper. The writing skills he learned during his time at the Independence Institute helped DeMarco win second place in a schoolwide writing competition at Arrupe Jesuit. He has also been able to put his speaking and broadcasting skills to work at 9News, where he worked for the second half of his senior year. Now out of school, DeMarco is well positioned to make his dream of becoming a broadcaster into reality after finishing college at St. John’s University.

More recently, we hosted a group of Crossroads students at the Colorado Capitol during the legislative session, where the students had the opportunity to speak directly

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II Efforts in the 2017 General Assembly

By Mike Krause

Independence Institute research, testimony, and coalition building played a part in numerous legislative efforts in the 2017 Colorado General Assembly.

Freedom of Information

II was a part of the stakeholders group that saw bipartisan Senate Bill 17-040, a modernization of Colorado's Open Records Act, signed into law by Governor Hickenlooper. A major element of SB 40 is a clarification of the public's right to request and receive public documents in a digital, searchable format, when those records exist in such a format. We ended up being a part of a coalition of strange bedfellows on this transparency effort that included the Secretary of State, the Colorado Press Association, the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition, Colorado Common Cause, and Colorado Ethics Watch, among others.

Right to Self Defense

We also teamed up with Coloradans for Civil Liberties on Senate Bill 17-006, otherwise known as "Lizzie's Law." SB 6 would have made members of the armed forces who are 18-20 years old eligible to apply for their concealed carry permit in Colorado. The bill, sponsored by State Senator John Cooke, passed out of the Senate, but was ultimately killed in a House committee by anti-gun Democrats. This was the second effort to pass "Lizzie's Law," named for Lizzie Pryzgoda, who serves in the Army Reserve and is also the daughter of II's own Amy Oliver Cooke.

In addition to "Lizzie's Law," we also testified in favor of three pro-gun rights bills, including a repeal of the 2013 magazine ban, a bill to expand armed-response training for school staff, and a bill to expand legal protections for armed self-defense for business owners. Interestingly, some of these bills likely had enough Democratic support to pass had they been given a fair hearing on the floor of the House. To ensure that didn't happen, Speaker of the House Crisanta Duran made sure they were sent to her "kill committee" to be dispatched.

Finally, the Legislature repealed Colorado's longstanding blanket ban on switchblade and gravity knives. Our own Dave Kopel helped along this victory for constitutional liberty, having written

a law review article making the case that such bans are unconstitutional, as knives qualify as "arms" under the Second Amendment.

Energy and Environmental Policy

II provided the intellectual ammunition for Senate Bill 17-188, the repeal of Colorado's generous state income tax credit for electric and alternative-fuel-powered vehicles. SB 188 would have redirected around \$30 million dollars to the Highway Users Trust Fund (HUTF) to be spent on roads and bridges instead of benefitting Front-Range residents buying second cars. While the bill passed out of committee, there were some Republicans who couldn't bring themselves to end this sweetheart deal to electric car makers and buyers, and the bill died on the Senate floor. But make no mistake, it will be back. We owe a big thanks to State Senator Vickie Marble for sponsoring the bill. We also helped stop an effort to force Excel ratepayers to subsidize electric vehicle charging stations and infrastructure.

Despite a strong effort, we couldn't stop the absurdity of re-authorizing the misguided, poorly named "Demand-side Management" program, a program that defies the law of supply and demand. Here's the gist: the state legislature directs the monopoly utilities such as Xcel Energy to profit, without limitation, at a higher rate of return on programs that lecture ratepayers about using less electricity. In other words, ratepayers are forced to pay Xcel (at a higher profit rate) to NOT produce electricity. Yes, it's that bad. Two Republican lawmakers, Senators Kevin Priola and Ray Scott, helped get it over the finish line.

Fortunately, there is good news for ratepayers – more transparency in our electricity bill thanks to passage of SB105, Consumer Right to Know Utility Charges. We supported the first version of this bill in 2011 when then State Senator Scott Renfroe (R-Greeley) championed it. We supported it again this year with testimony in the Senate. It may take a while, but good ideas do move forward. SB 105 is a good example of that. But the crown jewel was the Senate Republicans refusal to re-authorize the controversial Colorado Energy Office



4 Mike Krause testifying at the capital on SB 40

Why Don't We Get a Pass?

By Sherrie Peif

Remember these names. Charles Ashby, *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*; Bente Birkeland, *KUNC/Rocky Mountain Public Radio*; Peter Marcus, *ColoradoPolitics.com*; Brandon Rittiman, *9News*; and Vic Vela, *Colorado Public Radio*.

These are the reporters from the establishment media who refused me, Complete Colorado's capitol beat reporter, access to the State House and Senate floors.

Think about that. A small group of establishment media reporters has the authority to decide which reporters get preferential access and which ones do not. By controlling access, this group can influence the narrative coming out of the General Assembly.

The issue started in 2014 when the state's lawmakers turned over credentialing to a small, favored group of traditional media reporters. Since then, the Colorado Capitol Press Association (CCPA) has found reasons to deny access to some journalists who, like me, write for alternative media outlets such as Complete Colorado.

The reason? The fact that Complete is owned by a think tank that works on public policy through intellectual research, lobbying, and testimony, despite the fact that Complete Colorado reporters do none of those things, and regardless of the fact that all media models are designed with both news and lobbying/editorializing aspects.

Perhaps even more frustrating is the long piece CCPA has on its site discussing the history of credentialing members. Many of their arguments are either contradictory or in direct conflict with all media outlets. But it also talks about how threatening lawsuits under the First Amendment are likely not to be successful. Still, last year CCPA granted credentials to a reporter

from the liberal-leaning Colorado Independent only after it threatened to sue.

In one of my very rare opinion editorials, I laid out all the issues and hypocrisy surrounding the CCPA's decision to deny Complete Colorado access.

So far the support has been overwhelming. I've heard from other media outlets who support me, including *Associated Press*. I've also heard from several elected officials who want to help. We'll see if anything changes, but the conversation is not over. Complete Colorado will continue to fight for its right to a free press and equal access at the state capitol as well as all other government operations and agencies.

This is just one – albeit a glaring one – example of the absolute necessity of Complete Colorado. After 14 years with a mainstream daily newspaper, I joined Complete to cover important stories that establishment media often ignored. We don't just challenge prevailing narratives, we disrupt them through groundbreaking investigative journalism. We are tenacious and will overcome any obstacles to break news stories.

As for the CCPA situation, by giving this privileged group so much authority, the General Assembly cedes control of the legislative session narrative to its favored reporters. If all reporters cannot have the same access, then it might be time for legislators to reconsider the CCPA entirely. Rather than allowing just their favorites, do what so many other states do: No reporters on the floor, period.

Sherrie Peif is the Capitol Hill beat and investigative reporter for CompleteColorado.com—a project of the Independence Institute.



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32nd Annual Founders' Night

By Shari Hanrahan

This year's Founders' Night Dinner kicked off on April 27th with what should be a YouTube sensation for cuteness, as students from Golden View Classical Academy opened the evening with the National Anthem.

With great humility, and Jon Caldara as an umpire, keynote speakers Stephen Moore of *The Wall Street Journal* and John Fund of *National Review* revisited their statements—made from the same stage last year—on outcomes of the presidential election. Whether it was Trump's love of fast food or the Supreme Court nomination process, they were, as always, insightful and entertaining.

We were honored to present the David S. D'Evelyn Award to the Collins Family for their decade of support of our Future Leaders Program. Bob, Elaine, Tim, and Faith Collins understand the importance of investing in the next generation and sending tomorrow's leaders into the world with invaluable experience. Bright, young minds leave our program with an understanding of pro-freedom policies and the art of changing public opinion. They honor us by pursuing careers supporting liberty, and we recently honored them by upgrading their workspace in the Freedom Embassy (see page 10). We invite you to come see it for yourselves!

The Vern Bickel Award for Grassroots Leadership was presented to Vincent Carroll for his excellence in unbiased journalism and bold commentary on public policy and politics in Colorado for 35 years. His distinguished style is well-known for attacking hypocrites on both sides of the aisle and having a knack for understanding other points of view – something surely lacking in our time.

In a Founders' Night first, attendees chose their favorite (or, as is allowed in "approval voting," favorites) Earth Day Fossil Fuels Art Contest piece. While the environmental left was still spiraling in outrage over the mere existence of the contest, Sarah Bouma's sculpture, "Fueling the American Dream," took top prize.

We sincerely thank our generous sponsors and attendees for making this our most successful and exciting Founders' Night Dinner to date. It's your support that allows us to continue to be the voice of liberty for all Coloradans.



We hope to see you all at Founders' Night Dinner next year!

Shari Hanrahan is the Director of Investment Opportunities at the Independence Institute.

FASTER has come to Colorado

By Laura Carno

The Independence Institute, in conjunction with Coloradans for Civil Liberties, was proud to bring Faculty/Administrator Safety Training and Emergency Response (FASTER) to Colorado for the first time this June. FASTER prepares teachers and other school staff as armed first responders in their schools, filling a critical need to protect our schoolchildren.

After learning of FASTER in Ohio, which trained more than 900 responders since 2013, we felt it was our duty to bring this life-saving program to Colorado.

With the help of generous supporters like you, more than \$16,000 was raised to train 16 school staff members in our first FASTER class. Class attendees were a mix of those who have been carrying concealed firearms in their school for years, (many since the 2012 Sandy Hook shootings), and those who will carry concealed firearms in their schools for the first time this fall. The class was held over three days in Weld County, where Weld County Sheriff's Office generously provided a range for the class.

Carrying a concealed firearm on campus is legal in Colorado, provided the school employee has the permission of their school board or their charter governing board. Dozens of schools have taken advantage of this law to keep the children in their schools safe. As availability of the FASTER program expands, school boards across the state, including rural schools where law enforcement response can take up to 30-45 minutes, are taking a second look at their school safety plans and considering commonsense tactics.

One superintendent who attended our FASTER class said, "Many of us grew up around firearms and have been concealed carriers for years. This is the next step, being able to defend the children and employees in our schools." He continued, "FASTER training was just what we needed to train our security team in skills specific to the school setting. I'm so grateful to the donors who made this possible. Our small school doesn't have the budget for this kind of advanced training."

Because most schools don't have the funds to offer FASTER, we're inviting generous donors like you to help us provide scholarships. At a cost of \$1,000/trainee, our next two classes require \$40,000 in support.

FASTER students learn advanced firearms skills required to stop a threat, but they also learn medical skills. One teacher said after the FASTER class, "I've been around guns for most of my life and am very comfortable with carrying at work. I knew less about advanced first aid. I carry just in case something happens. I also needed these medical skills, just in case something happens."

When every second counts, we want to count on our first responders. Sponsor a teacher today at FasterColorado.com, or call Todd Lubas at (303) 279-6536 ext. 120.



Laura Carno is the founder of I Am Created Equal, leads Coloradans for Civil Liberties, and covers Second Amendment and other issues where government forgets that it serves the people. Laura is also the author of Government Ruins Nearly Everything.



E2P: A New Age of Free Market Energy and Environmental Policy

By Amy Oliver Cooke

We don’t apologize for prosperity. We celebrate it. We encourage it. And we want to share it. That’s why the next time you visit the energy policy page on the Independence Institute’s web site (which you should do right now), you’ll find a whole new look, a whole new feel, and a whole new theme of optimism about how we can have affordable power, responsible energy development, and a clean environment.

We openly reject the Environmental Left’s cynical either-or choice, disrupting the predictable, prevailing narrative that we must choose between paying our utility bills or clean air. Simply put, that’s a false choice.

Never one to follow, we lead. We led as one of the first state-based free market think tanks to fully invest in an energy policy center. We are leading again with a renewed vision of promoting free-market energy development that fuels a thriving economy and a cleaner environment.

The energy policy center has come a long way since its humble origins in 2010. Founded originally as a part-time project with a simple mission of providing an alternative perspective on costly energy regulations, we quickly realized that we were filling a Grand Canyon-sized free-market policy void.

We also discovered that we were lone rangers in a policy arena dominated by rent seekers and the Environmental Left. Outspent, outgunned, outmanned, we found that just showing up changed the dynamics, because these groups were used to crafting policy free from public scrutiny. But showing up wasn’t enough.

We started fighting battles at the state capitol, in the court of public opinion, and in rulemaking. We’ve worked to shape policy at the local, state, and national levels without losing sight of our principles.

Over time, our work expanded to include a wide scope of both energy and environmental policy. So, to better reflect our broader mission, we’ve officially changed our name to the Energy and Environmental Policy Center, or E2P for short.

Along with our new name comes a new logo, clarity of vision, established principles, and offensive strategy. We’ll challenge the Left head-on and celebrate our unparalleled quality of life thanks to domestic energy – our economic fuel.

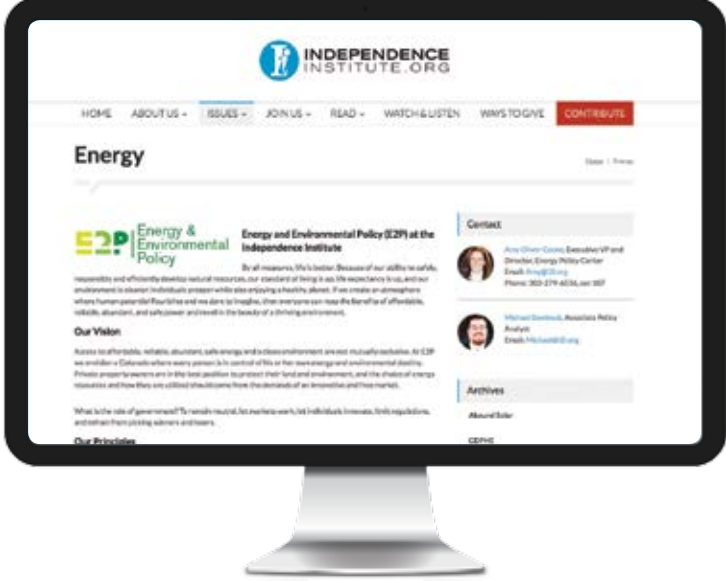
At E2P, we know that access to affordable, reliable, abundant, safe energy and a clean environment are not mutually exclusive. We envision a Colorado where every person is in control of his or her own energy and environmental destiny. Private property owners are in the best position to protect their land and environment, and the choice of energy resources and how they are utilized should come from the demands of an innovative and free market.

What is the role of government? To remain neutral, let markets work, let individuals innovate, limit regulations, and refrain from picking winners and losers.

We’re under no illusion regarding the challenges in energy and environmental policy. We’ve likened ourselves to the Continental Army battling the British Empire. But it’s the other side that should be worried about E2P’s tenacious group of battle-tested freedom fighters, because our influence is being felt everywhere from Washington, D.C. to the State Capitol.

Please check out our new web page at www.indpendenceinstitute.org/energy.

Amy Oliver Cooke is Executive Vice President and Director of Energy and Environmental Policy at the Independence Institute.



Tweeting Liberty from 14,000 feet

By Erik Sandstrom

People who love fracking can be obsessed with nature, too. I, Erik Sandstrom, am walking, talking, tweeting proof of that.

After spending more than two years working on public engagement surrounding the oil and natural gas industry in Colorado, I came to the Independence Institute to communicate freedom through 140 characters. There are a lot of brilliant people doing great work here at II, and I’m here to help make the most of that work by getting it in front of as wide a digital audience as possible. With the help of other staff members, I have been experimenting with new tools and messaging strategies to not only arm our existing supporters with quality information, but also to grow that network of support digitally.

For those of us who believe in limited government, property rights, individual freedom, and individual responsibility, our ideals can be difficult to communicate in a way that appeals to the everyday Coloradan. Too often we sound dry and dusty when juxtaposed with the emotional victimhood so frequently propagated by the media and the political left. My long-term goal is to make “small government, TABOR, school choice, and gun rights” sound like “sunshine, glitter, puppies, and rainbows” to the masses. I want the philosophy of Ludwig von Mises to become as catchy as the latest Taylor Swift single.

Outside of the Freedom Embassy, I spend most of my time trail-running and climbing mountains. With an ambitious summer planned that should include as many as 50 summits and two ultra-marathons (because 26.2 miles just isn’t enough), I like to think I put the “fit” in unfit for government work. I also tell bad jokes.

There’s something truly special and peaceful about spending time in Colorado’s mountains; it’s hard to describe. I love the scenery, the physical challenges, and the feeling of relative seclusion. I love seeing the ruins of the many mines representing the entrepreneurship that built the Western United States. It feels like freedom... that is, until you realize you’re standing on US Forest Service or BLM land.

Climbing mountains is silly. If you really think about it, my hobby boils down to walking and running uphill on piles of rock and dirt where there isn’t much oxygen. One can’t be afraid of daunting challenges to do something like that. Then again, one can’t be afraid of the daunting challenge of taking on big government and the progressive left either. I’m glad I get to enjoy both challenges.

Speaking of active hobbies, we at Independence believe that an active body supports an active mind. Whether it be running marathons down Colfax Avenue, or beating personal records climbing 14-ers, the II staff can be found climbing, running, kayaking, or cycling all over Colorado.

Every year, members of our staff participate in the Courage Classic, a two-day bicycle tour benefiting Colorado Children’s Hospital. And every year, our fearless leader, Jon Caldara, promises to don the classic biker’s spandex shorts and ride – if we raise enough money, of course. This year, his price is \$20,000, all benefitting the kids at Children’s Hospital. If you would like to see Jon pedal up the side of a mountain, please see the link on our homepage (i2i.org). It’s for the kids.

Erik Sandstrom is the Re-purposing Czar at the Independence Institute.



Erik on Mt. Eolus



Todd Lubas and Tracy Kimball-Smith on a training ride to Red Rocks.

Future Leaders

by Megan Polston

Check out our new Future Leaders Internship space! Bit by bit, the Institute has been making necessary changes to our beautiful office to keep it in fighting shape. With the generous support of the Collins family and other Independence Institute donors, we recently made a huge dent in that goal by renovating our intern room. Prior to this makeover, the room was full of 1980s era cubicles, that, while very functional, provided little space for young leaders. With the help of our generous donors, and a little elbow grease, we’ve transformed the space into something worthy of hip and young interns! Well, maybe not too hip and young – unlike Google, we still believe in chairs rather than bean bags.

We tried to emulate our brand of humor, and commitment to our ideology throughout the room, giving special credence to cultural, economic, and political leaders and rabble rousers throughout history. The walls are adorned with delightful images of the TV show *South Park*, and *Parks and Recreation* character Ron Swanson which help prove that while we take our mission of fighting big government seriously, we don’t take ourselves too seriously. If these interns are going

to join the revolution, they must learn its first lesson: the revolution only works if it’s FUN.

As we warmly welcome eight new Future Leaders this summer, the space will provide them the opportunity to collaborate with each other while developing the skills and knowledge required to advance liberty in Colorado and beyond. Offering a space that is functional, modern, clean, and inviting plays a huge role in accomplishing that mission.

Because of the support we have received from donors, who have shown generosity both monetarily and through donating much-needed furniture, we are better able to train the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you for helping to make this room possible. We look forward to keeping you updated on all our Future Leaders’ accomplishments!

For more information on the Future Leaders Internship program, please visit our website at www.i2i.org/join-us/internship or call Todd Lubas at 303-279-6536 (x120) to offer your support.



Megan Polston is the Operations Manager at Independence Institute.



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Damon Sasso Vice President of Operations, and Creative Labs
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General assembly continued...

(CEO). It was great to see an unnecessary government program actually de-funded. Though no doubt, like a zombie that just won’t die, the CEO will be back next year, looking to be funded again.

Other Notables

Other notable efforts in which II was involved included working toward equitable funding for public charter school students, putting an end to unpopular PARCC testing in Colorado High Schools, and providing committee testimony for three different bills addressing issues around Colorado’s Public Employee Retiree Association (PERA).

There were also some bad bills that II had a hand in stopping. For example, our testimony helped kill House Bills 17-1261 and 1262, both purely partisan Democratic efforts to further restrict political speech in Colorado by

subjecting small-scale electioneering efforts to campaign finance disclosure and filing requirements. Then there was House bill 17-1242. Instead of making tough decisions to fund Colorado roads out of existing state revenue, some Republicans and Democrats teamed up to try and refer a massive sales tax increase to the ballot. Make no mistake, this bad bill wasn’t just about road funding. The tax hike also included a large-scale giveaway to transit, and a multi-million-dollar slush fund for local governments to tap for their own pet projects. We fought HB 1242 tooth and nail, and are grateful to the Republican senators who bucked immense pressure from the takings coalition, and dispatched this bill in Senate Finance.



Mike Krause is Director of Public Affairs at Independence Institute.

Education Policy Center continued...

with legislators about our state’s need for a private school choice program and sit on the chamber floors. They even received an official shout-out from Senator Owen Hill, the chairman of the Senate Education Committee. This semester, the son of one of Crossroads’ leaders will learn about free-market ideas and video production as an intern with our Creative Labs team.

When we started work on our first profile, we never expected it to turn into a popular series. And even as we

worked through the series, we never expected the profiles to result in the kind of deep, lasting friendships we’ve seen develop. But because of a single idea, a seed, we have cultivated alliances that can and will help move educational choice forward in Colorado in the years to come.



Ross Izard is the Senior Education Policy Analyst for the Independence Institute.

Yes! I want to join the Independence Institute in advancing the principles of limited government.

Enclosed is my gift of:

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In-House Events

Local Government Project Happy Hour

On the first Friday in June, we hosted a Local Leadership Coalition (LLC) happy hour. The Local Leadership Coalition is a gathering of locally elected officials and appointees who mingle, network, and talk about the issues and solutions facing their communities. It was a fine evening of swapping ideas about advancing liberty at the local level, where government often has the most immediate and regular impact on the day to day lives of its citizens.

What is the Independence Institute doing to preserve liberty at the local level? Our goal is to change the makeup of boards and commissions by helping liberty-minded people get appointed. We want to ask the question, "Is this the proper role of government?" in hopes that the average citizen will recognize government overreach and stop it before it even reaches lawmakers.

We want people to be aware of the overreach of government and to realize they can become part of the solution.

Will you join our efforts? To get involved contact Kathleen Chandler at kathleen@i2i.org today!

Bottleneckers Book Signing

Independence Institute's Freedom Alliance members were treated to an exclusive event at the Freedom Embassy with the Institute for Justice's Dr. Dick Carpenter on May 25, 2017.

Author and Director of Strategic Research for the Institute for Justice, Carpenter engaged the audience as he discussed and signed his book, *Bottleneckers: Gaming the Government for Power and Private Profit*.

Bottleneckers explores the rich history of people and industries that use government power to limit competition and reap monopoly profits and other benefits. Teaming up with compliant politicians, "bottleneckers" range from tour guides to taxicabs—constricting competition, innovation, and opportunity—leaving consumers with fewer choices and higher prices.

But it wasn't all regulatory doom and gloom. Carpenter pointed the way to reforms that will both empower entrepreneurs in their pursuit of the American Dream and benefit consumers across the country.

If you're not already a Freedom Alliance member and want to receive future exclusive invitations, make your pledge of \$1,000 annually to the Independence Institute at <https://www.i2i.org/contribute/> or call Todd Lubas at (303) 279-6536 ext. 120. We welcome you!

Upcoming event!



Celebrate freedom and the perks of adulthood on August 26th, with a day of shooting, smoking, and drinking. **Congressman Ken Buck will keynote** the event. See our website for details.



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