

Colorado State Visit

CSG West Director Edgar Ruiz, along with staff member Jeff Miller, made a visit to the Colorado State Capitol in Denver March 19-21. In the midst of a busy week, Senators reached a major legislative compromise that would provide billions of dollars for road maintenance and transportation funding ([SB 1](#)). The deal was made possible after legislators were provided with budget projections indicating up to \$500 million in unanticipated state revenue. That bill is under consideration in the House.

The Senate also continued working to shore up funding for the state's public employee pension fund, ultimately passing a bill ([SB 200](#)) that would gradually increase employee contributions, temporarily freeze cost-of-living adjustments for retirees, raise the retirement age for new employees, and change the way retirement benefits are calculated. The bill is now in the House Appropriations Committee.

The legislature also considered a few controversial issues during the CSG West visit, rejecting a proposal to allow Coloradoans to carry a concealed gun without a permit just days after the Senate rejected a proposal to ban bump stocks. The House also considered, and ultimately passed, a bill to reauthorize the Colorado Civil Rights Commission through 2027, as recommended by the Department of Regulatory Agencies after a sunset review last year. Some controversy surrounding [HB 1256](#) stems from the Civil Rights Commission's current involvement in a U.S. Supreme Court Case, *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. The bill is now in the Senate, where members may consider amending the process of appointing commissioners and changing the commission's approach to address complaints.

CSG West staff met with leaders in both chambers and were joined at a May 21 luncheon by a number of distinguished Western Legislative Academy alumni, including Representative Polly Lawrence, Chair of CSG West's Westrends Board, and Representative Jeni Arndt, Vice Chair of the CSG West Agriculture and Water Committee. Several newer legislators invited by WLA alumni also attended the luncheon to learn more about the program and the organization's activities this year. CSG West looks forward to welcoming selected Colorado legislators to the 2018 WLA.