



## Advocacy Training

Association for Colorado Chambers of Commerce February 11, 2021



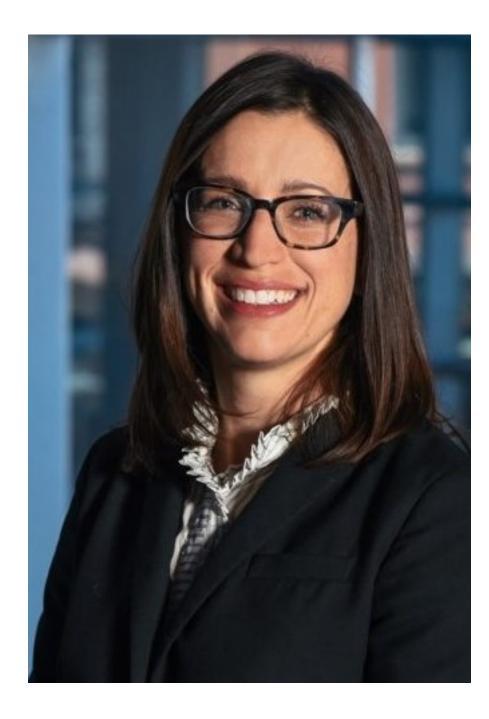
FOR BUSINESS. FOR COLORADO. FOR TOMORROW.



Loren Furman

SVP, State & Federal Relations **Colorado Chamber** 





**Rachel Beck** 

**VP, Government Affairs Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC** 





## **Diane Schwenke**

**President & CEO Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce** 





### **Get Familiar with Legislative Process & Know Your State Legislators:**

- •Review the Colorado General Assembly website to get familiar with the legislative committee and floor process
- •Contact your legislative delegation members, tell them that your Chamber will be actively engaged on legislation, and ask to work together
- •Determine which legislative delegation members serve on certain committees
- •Create a list of all legislative committees and the legislators who serve on those committees with their email addresses and phone numbers











#### **Create a Legislative Policy Committee:** Identify a small group of members who can serve on a legislative policy

- committee
- Try to choose members who represent different sizes of businesses • Try to choose members who have expertise or interest in a certain policy area:
- **OEmployment** issues
  - •Health care issues
  - **•**Taxation issues
  - **OEnergy** issues
  - General business: i.e., transportation, education
- Schedule a committee meeting 1-2x per month during the legislative session Keep a narrow list of bills to discuss and take positions on
- Engage your committee members to provide expertise for taking positions
- Find out what your committee members' connections are











### **Track and Take Positions on Legislation:**

- meetings
- Positions include: Support/Oppose/Amend •Use Roberts Rules of Order to ensure fair voting process Avoid conflicts by actively discussing bills with members prior to taking a
- position
- •If there is conflict, consider a neutral position





 Invest in a bill tracking program such as State Bill to identify bills of interest Participate in CO Chamber's <u>Policy Councils</u> (Chamber president or staff) • Discuss & take positions on those bills at Legislative Policy Committee







#### **Engage on Legislation**:

- •Once your committee has taken a position on a bill, it's time to engage!
- those bills
- •Send emails, texts or make phone calls to the legislators who serve on the bill on the House and Senate Floor
- If a bill has significant impact to your members or your community, consider outreach to the Governor through a letter or a call with his staff
- Join coalitions!
  - -Power is in numbers!
  - -Join forces with state and local chambers and business interest groups

legislation





 Notify your legislative delegation members of your Chamber's positions on bills Identify a member of your legislative committee to testify in person or remotely on

committees that will be hearing the bills and legislators who will be voting on the

-Work together toward a common goal to either defeat, pass or amend the











COLORADO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Questions



## Resources

**Find My Legislator:** https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator

**Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce Legislative Guidelines:** https://gjchamber.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-Legislative-Guidelines.pdf

**Colorado Chamber Policy Councils:** https://cochamber.com/issues-advocacy/policy-councils/

**More Questions: Contact Lauren Schwartz, Colorado Chamber** LSchwartz@COchamber.com | 303.866.9643









