



# TPC Advocacy Presentation

December 5, 2019

# Why is Advocacy Important for Nonprofit Entities?

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Nonprofit entities reflect their communities and have community-wide networks – your opinion matters!

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Nonprofit entities can educate legislators to help them understand the practical implications of proposed legislation.

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Nonprofit entities are often uniquely capable of identifying unintended consequences surrounding proposed legislation.

# Nonprofits Are Effective Advocates

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Fill gaps in services left by government  
lending insight into needs of  
constituents.

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Used to bringing coalitions together to  
get things done.

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Used to bringing people and  
organizations together to leverage  
resources needed to promote change.

# TPC Advocacy Committee

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Meets bi-weekly during session  
(conference call)

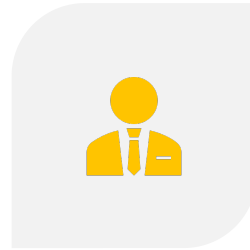
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Tracks legislation impacting TPC  
mission & teen parent families

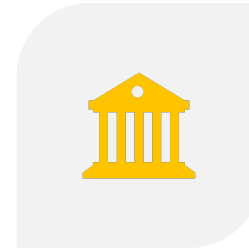
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Engages in direct lobbying activities;  
incorporates participation of teen  
parents when possible

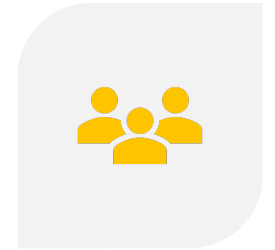
# TPC Advocacy Guidelines



WHEN ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF THE TPC NETWORK, TPC REPRESENTATIVES WILL ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH OFFICIAL TPC POSITIONS.



ADVOCACY MAY INCLUDE DIRECT LOBBYING OF INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATORS OR EXECUTIVE-BRANCH OFFICIALS, PROVIDING TESTIMONY AT LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS, PROVIDING PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTIONS, ACTING IN COALITION WITH TPC MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDER GROUPS, ISSUING ACTION ALERTS TO ACTIVATE MEMBERSHIP, AND PROVIDING INFORMATION AND/OR PRESENTATIONS TO EDUCATE PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND/OR THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON TPC PRIORITIES, ISSUES, AND CONCERNS.



ADVOCACY POSITIONS ARE THOSE OF THE TPC AS A COLLECTIVE AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY ENDORSED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS.

# TPC Advocacy Areas

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The TPC advocates on legislation directly related to its mission on topics falling primarily into the following categories:

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Promoting self-sufficiency (removing barriers & creating opportunities)

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Early childhood care & education

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Domestic issues

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Transportation

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Education attainment & systems, including school finance

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Fiscal policy & taxes

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Public health, health care, health insurance & CHIP

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Human services

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Behavioral health

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Foster care

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Juvenile justice

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Immigration

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Reproductive health

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Domestic violence, sexual violence & sexual health

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Regulatory reform

# Goal of Lobbying is to Persuade

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Give local facts – how does action impact community and/or constituents?

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Quantify impact when possible.

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Personal stories are powerful.

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Relate requested action to legislator's worldview.

# Relationships are Key

Get to know your legislators, legislators on relevant committees and local officials.

Follow them on social media and sign up for their newsletters.

Help them understand what the TPC and its network organizations do.

Attend their townhall meetings.

Regular communication builds relationships and facilitates collaboration.



# Role of the Committees

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Bills will be assigned to a committee of reference for review and public comment.

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Colorado Constitution requires that every bill receive a hearing.

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Legislators sitting on the committee will determine if the bill moves forward in the legislature.

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House and Senate daily calendars include scheduled committee hearings and calendared bills.

# Senate Committees of Reference

Agriculture,  
Natural  
Resources

Appropriations

Business,  
Labor &  
Technology

Education

Finance

Health &  
Human  
Services

Judiciary

Local  
Government

State Veterans  
& Military  
Affairs

Transportation  
& Energy

# House Committees of Reference

Energy &  
Environment

Appropriations

Business  
Affairs & Labor

Education

Judiciary

Rural Affairs &  
Agriculture

Public Health  
Care & Human  
Services

State, Veterans  
& Military  
Affairs

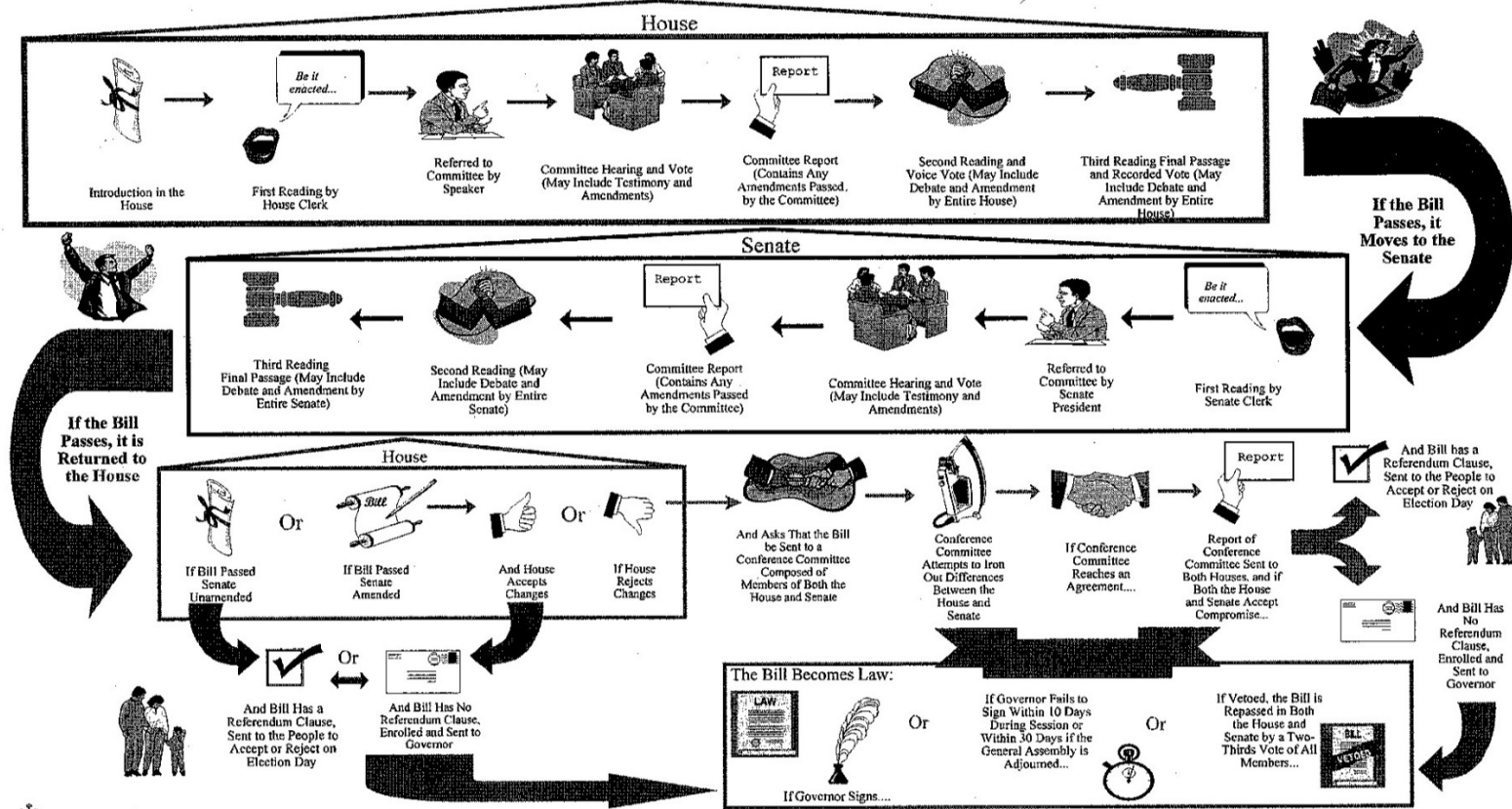
Finance

Health &  
Insurance

Transportation  
& Local Gov

# A Bill's Path Through the Legislature

## How a Bill Becomes Colorado Law\*



\* Assumes Bill is a House bill, a Senate Bill Follows a Similar Process Beginning in the Senate

# Providing Testimony

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Sign up sheets located in committee hearing rooms.

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Direct remarks to the committee chair.

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Remarks must not exceed 3 minutes.

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Clearly state position and perspective on bill.

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Handouts provided to Legislative Council staff  
before you testify.

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Be clear on action you would like committee to take.

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Be prepared to answer questions or provide follow  
up information.

# Remote Testimony

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Sign up for remote testimony through General Assembly website. (<http://leg.colorado.gov/remote-testimony>)

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Requests for remote testimony made by legislators, approved by legislative leadership.

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Remote testimony sites located at Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction & Montrose Campus), Otero Junior College (La Junta), Fort Lewis College (Durango), Trinidad Junior College (Trinidad), Lamar Community College (Lamar) and Adams State University (Alamosa).

Need Help?

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Information Center located in  
Legislative Library (Room 048).

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Provides copies of bills, calendars,  
journals and information on  
scheduling for specific bills.

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General Assembly website: [http://  
leg.colorado.gov/](http://leg.colorado.gov/)