

PUTTING ADVOCACY SKILLS TO WORK IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

Take the next step! Changing Injury, Suicide and Violence Prevention policies can be the most effective way to impact lasting change in your community. This session will explore Colorado specific goals and barriers and give concrete examples of successful efforts.

Christine Staberg, The Capstone Group LLC

- Colorado's rugged individualism
- Colorado House of Representatives
37 Democrats, 28 Republicans & 1 Unaffiliated
- Colorado State Senate
21 Democrats, 14 Republicans
- History of Democrat/Republican leadership
Pattern of control shift



The political landscape in Colorado

How a Bill Becomes a Law – 33, 18 and 1

Introduced in House

Committee of Reference

Appropriations Committee

House 2nd Reading

House 3rd Reading

Introduced in Senate

Committee of Reference

Appropriations Committee

Senate 2nd Reading

Senate 3rd Reading

Governor's desk for action

Examples of state laws that have passed in Colorado

- Primary seat belts for minors
- Graduated drivers license restrictions
- Mandatory infant seats/child restraints through age 8
- Mandatory carbon monoxide detectors in new construction & existing for-sale residential

Examples of bills that have failed to become law

- Mandatory motorcycle helmets
- Primary seat belts for adults
- Mandatory bicycle helmets for minors
- Ban use of handheld cell phones

Localities

64 counties

271 cities & towns

Special districts –

water, sewer, roads

libraries

mental health services

and ...

Local policy opportunities

Initiative Process

TABOR

Amendments 60, 61 and Initiative 101 (Nov. 2011)

Independent “Frontier” Mentality

Term Limits

Colorado-specific challenges

2002

Introduced as booster seat “best practices”

Amended to ages 4 and 5 and up to 55” tall

Arguments against – unnecessary gov’t interference;
cost (to buy booster seats, retrofit vans, etc); inconvenience

What about soccer moms?

2010

Introduced as primary seat belt measure

Amended to require booster seats for ages 6 and 7 and
simplify all child restraint requirements

Arguments against – infringement on parental responsibility/freedom ;
potential for racial profiling

Your Turn! Developing your 60 second speech

Your target:

local, state or federal?
political leanings?
personal background?

Your issue:

emotion
stats
the ask!

- Youth Crime Prevention & Intervention program created in 1994, later renamed Tony Grampsas Youth Services program
- At its high point, approx. \$10 million annually for youth prevention programs in Colorado
- Program's funding was eliminated from the state budget in 2002
- Following an aggressive advocacy and public outreach effort, the governor restored \$4 million in one time funds in 2003
- Who is Tony Grampsas?

What You Can Do Today

Identify your elected officials (home & work)

www.vote-smart.org

Introduce yourself & your issue

Advocacy means speaking up!

– N. Amidei

[Q & A]

Questions