



2017 LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD.

CIRCAF 2017: a year of fighting back

MESSAGE FROM CIRC ACTION FUND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On the morning of November 9th, many of us were slow to get out of bed, wondering about the consequences of the previous night's election and the implications of the hateful rhetoric created by the Trump campaign. We now see it all coming true, with increased hate-based attacks on immigrants, unconstitutional refugee bans, untenable promises to build a border wall across the southern border, and increasingly hostile ICE enforcement operations across the country. With National-level structures compromised by hate, CIRC Action Fund believes that a path to relief for immigrant communities is possible in Colorado.

The Colorado state legislature offers us a local referendum on national politics, one that is infused with the core values of our state. The 2017 legislative session provided our movement with an opportunity to challenge the hateful rhetoric of the presidential election and to resist



the onslaught of anti-immigrant executive orders. Although the weight of the election still hung heavy over Colorado, we used the 2017 legislative session to reassert our values, protect our communities, and fight back against hate.

This year, as we saw an increase in attacks on the immigrant community, we also saw the Colorado immigrant rights movement that responded with commitment and strength. The task of passing pro-immigrant policies in this environment can be daunting, however, our movement is stronger, wiser, and led by the communities we serve. Our long-term work already created unlikely allies and strong leaders, who will continue to push a pro-immigrant legislative agenda across Colorado.

As we prepare for whatever is next, we need to remember that resistance begins at the local level and that pro-immigrant policy wins in Colorado are within our reach. With our members and our communities at the center of this work, we will fight and we will win.

Towards justice, always.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Melaku". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nicole Melaku

Executive Director, CIRC Action Fund



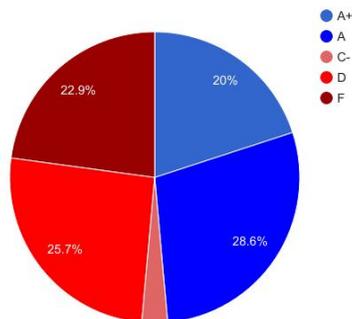
SUMMARY

We are proud of to be a part of a strong Colorado immigrant rights movement that soundly defeated some of the most hateful State-level bills in years. CIRCAF members and partners came out, protested, and spoke openly about the fear hanging over our communities.

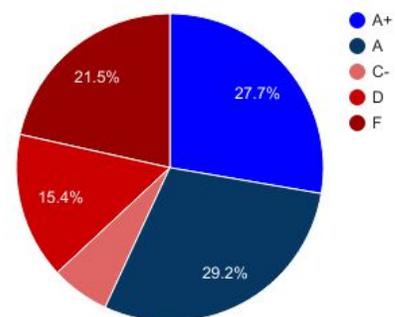
At the 2015 CIRCAF Assembly in Silverthorne CO, members identified two priority areas of statewide legislation – running the Improving and Maintaining Protections Accountability and Community Trust Act (IMPACT) and reforming SB-251, driver’s licenses for all Coloradans. The I-Drive campaign pursued several legislative strategies, focusing on operations of the SB-251 driver’s license program and its funding through the Department of Revenue. And the Campaign to Unite Colorado decided that the IMPACT Act should be divided into two bills, with one piece finding success and the other tabled due to the difficult political environment.

In addition to these priorities, CIRCAF also engaged in efforts to pass sentencing reform, protect Coloradans from the threat of federal internment and registries, defeat anti-sanctuary proposals, and killed a citizenship requirement to become a law-enforcement official.

2017 Colorado State Senate Report Card Grades



2017 Colorado State Assembly Report Card





2017 CIRCAF LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

CIRCAF PRIORITY BILLS

HB-1206 - Eligibility CO Road & Community Safety Act	HB-1268 - Criminal Penalty One Year To 364 Days	HB-1230 - Protect Colorado From Fed. Government Overreach	HB-1122 - Gender ID on Birth Certificates	HB-1134/SB-281 - Colorado Politician Accountability Act(s)	SB-120 - Require US Citizenship to Be a Peace Officer
CIRCAF position: SUPPORT	CIRCAF position: SUPPORT	CIRCAF position: SUPPORT	CIRCAF position: SUPPORT	CIRCAF position: OPPOSE	CIRCAF position: OPPOSE
PASSED ASSEMBLY 	PASSED ASSEMBLY 	PASSED ASSEMBLY 	PASSED ASSEMBLY 	PASSED SENATE 	PASSED SENATE 
FINAL FATE: Defeated In Senate Committee	FINAL FATE: Defeated In Assembly Committee	FINAL FATE: Defeated In Assembly Committee			

CIRCAF 2017: a year of fighting back

IMPACT: PART 1 – DETAINER REFORM

As a result of intense politicization of detainer reform within the Capitol, the Campaign to Unite Colorado decided to not run IMPACT Act this year. Although the deep stakeholder work with law enforcement officials and rural legislators primed us to win IMPACT in 2017, the national political climate around immigration policy created a toxic environment for detainer reform. As anti-immigrant legislators ratcheted up attacks on local elected officials who supported “sanctuary city” protections and increased their advocacy against county sheriffs who held the line on ICE detainer holds, it became clear that passing IMPACT with bipartisan support was not possible this year.



ANTI-SANCTUARY BILLS

CIRCAF successfully defended all 64 county-level detainer policies in the State of Colorado by defeating two anti-immigrant bills. The effort to kill these bills was done in conjunction with the County Sheriffs of Colorado (CSOC) and the Colorado Resistance Table, and helped to solidify local opposition to detainers and the federal attempt to defund “Sanctuary Cities.”

HB-1134 and SB-281 - THE COLORADO POLITICIAN ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

This bill would have created a class 4 felony for state or local elected officials who created, enforced, or implemented ‘sanctuary’ policies related to undocumented immigrants. It would have allowed a victim of a crime committed by an undocumented person residing in a sanctuary jurisdiction to file a civil action for compensatory damages against elected officials. Additionally, this bill would have brought back SB-90 to Colorado by requiring local law enforcement to report suspected undocumented immigrants to ICE and prohibiting local governments and Sheriffs from creating policies limiting communication and collaboration with ICE. Led by Representative Dave Williams, this cruel and petty legislation died in the House State, Military and Veterans Affairs committee after 12 hours of opposition testimony.

SB-281 was a scaled-down version of HB-1134 and passed out of the Senate, but in the end it was also defeated in the House State, Military and Veterans Affairs committee.

SB-120 - CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENT OF US CITIZENSHIP TO BE A PEACE OFFICER

The bill would have immediately imposed a United States citizenship requirement for police, sheriffs, and state troopers in Colorado. Since immigrant peace officers are an effective way to rebuild trust between law-enforcement and immigrant communities, this petty and unfair way to punish non-citizens working to police their communities did not find footing in the House, and died in the State, Military and Veterans Affairs committee.



THE I DRIVE COLORADO CAMPAIGN

Partisan politics continued to get in the way of common sense reforms to the SB-251 program, but the I Drive Colorado Campaign made important inroads, positioning it for success in 2018.

HB-1206 - ELIGIBILITY COLORADO ROAD & COMMUNITY SAFETY ACT

HB-1206 was proposed to address the systemic problems with the SB 251 driver's license program. This bill would have allowed applicants to use a social security number to qualify for an SB-251 driver's license. Additionally, HB-1206 would have streamlined the renewal process by allowing people to renew their licenses online or at any DMV office in the state.

With strong bipartisan support coming out of the House Local Government Committee, HB-1206 passed through the Assembly with a final vote of 40-23. Unfortunately, the bill received an unfavorable committee assignment in the Senate and even with intensive lobbying from the Colorado Dairy Farmers, HB-1206 fell 3-2 on a party line vote.

SB-251 BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

To try and increase the number of offices offering licenses, The I-Drive Campaign went back to a budget strategy led by Joint Budget Committee (JBC) member and longtime immigrant rights champion, Senator Dominick Moreno. Once Republican JBC members realized that the pro-immigrant camp had the upper hand in the budget negotiation, they threatened other progressive funding priorities to hold up the SB-251 program. As negotiations intensified, Speaker of the House Crisanta Duran stepped up to advocate on behalf of the Democratic JBC members. Based on threats to withhold funding for other critical programs, a deal was reached on the entire slate of progressive priorities. As a result, although the funding for the program was tripled from \$1,500,000, it is likely that the 66,000 issuance-cap will be hit in 2018, triggering an automatic reduction of participating DMV offices.



PARTNER BILLS

After the 2017 election, pro-immigrant champions stepped up to fight the deluge of hateful executive orders. Although many of these efforts ultimately failed this year, these bills lifted up Colorado as a key leader in the national immigrant rights movement.

HB-1268 - CHANGE MAXIMUM CRIMINAL PENALTY FROM ONE YEAR TO 364 DAYS

This bill, sponsored by Representative Leslie Herod, would have lowered the maximum penalty for certain class 2 misdemeanors from 365 to 364 days, so that the sentences would not trigger automatic deportation consequences. This would have been a smart way to address the concerns of some immigrants caught up in the criminal justice system. After passing the House, the bill ultimately failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee on a party-line vote.

HB-1230 - PROTECT COLORADO RESIDENTS FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OVERREACH (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE RALPH CARR FREEDOM DEFENSE ACT)

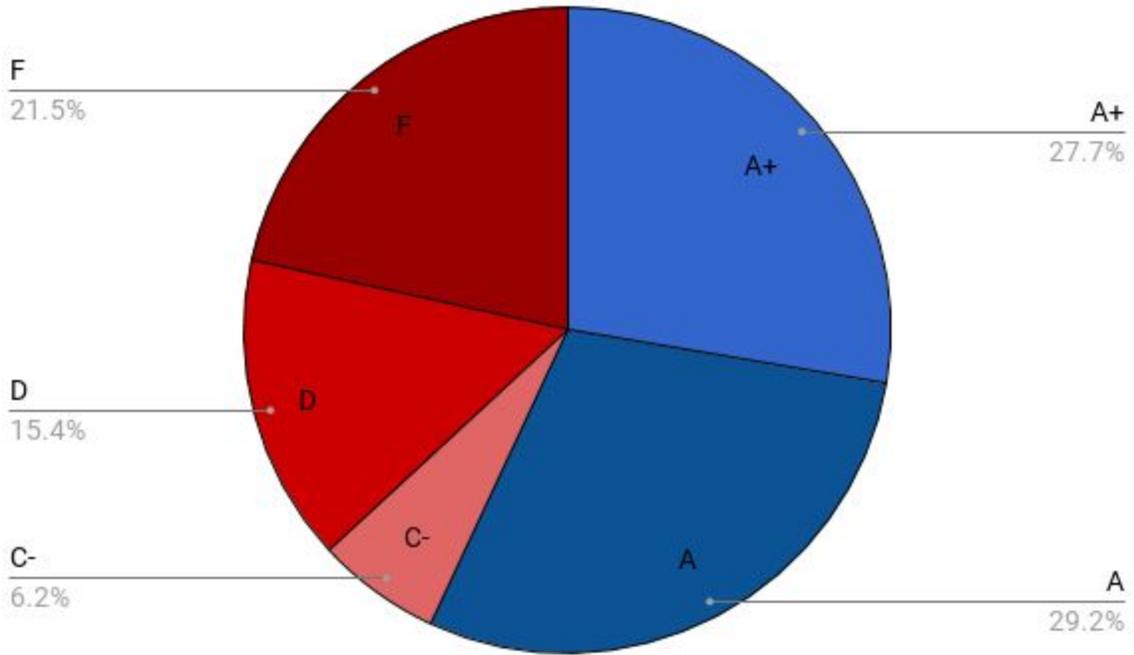
This bill would have prohibited state and municipal governments from creating registries based on race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, or religious affiliation, and would have prevented the state from assisting the federal government in the creation of internment camps. Representative Joe Salazar led the charge on this bill, garnering dozens of co-cosponsors in the House and Senate and significant support from allied organizations. But with partisan politics shaping the conversation, the bill died on a party-line vote.

HB17-1122 - GENDER IDENTIFICATION ON BIRTH CERTIFICATES

As a key intersectional issues with the LGBTQ community, HB-1122 would have improved the ability for transgender Coloradans to change their gender identity on Colorado birth certificates. Specifically, the 2017 Birth Certificate Modernization Act would have allowed transgender individuals to receive a new birth certificate, as opposed to one that is amended, and it would have removed the requirement that such applicants have undergone gender confirmation surgery.



Colorado State Assembly Report Card Grades



COLORADO STATE ASSEMBLY	GRADE
Herod, Leslie	A+
Melton, Jovan	A+
Foote, Mike	A+
Weissman, Mike	A+
Benavidez, Adrienne	A+
Duran, Crisanta	A+
Salazar, Joseph	A+
Esgar, Daneya	A+



Lee, Pete	A+
Singer, Jonathan	A+
Winter, Faith	A+
Hooton, Edie	A+
Lontine, Susan	A+
Arndt, Jeni	A+
Michaelson Jenet, Dafna	A+
Hansen, Chris	A+
Rosenthal, Paul	A+
Garnett, Alec	A+
Ginal, Joann	A
Kraft-Tharp, Tracy	A
Gray, Matt	A
Valdez, Donald	A
Coleman, James	A
Danielson, Jessie	A
Hamner, Millie	A
Young, Dave	A
Exum, Tony	A



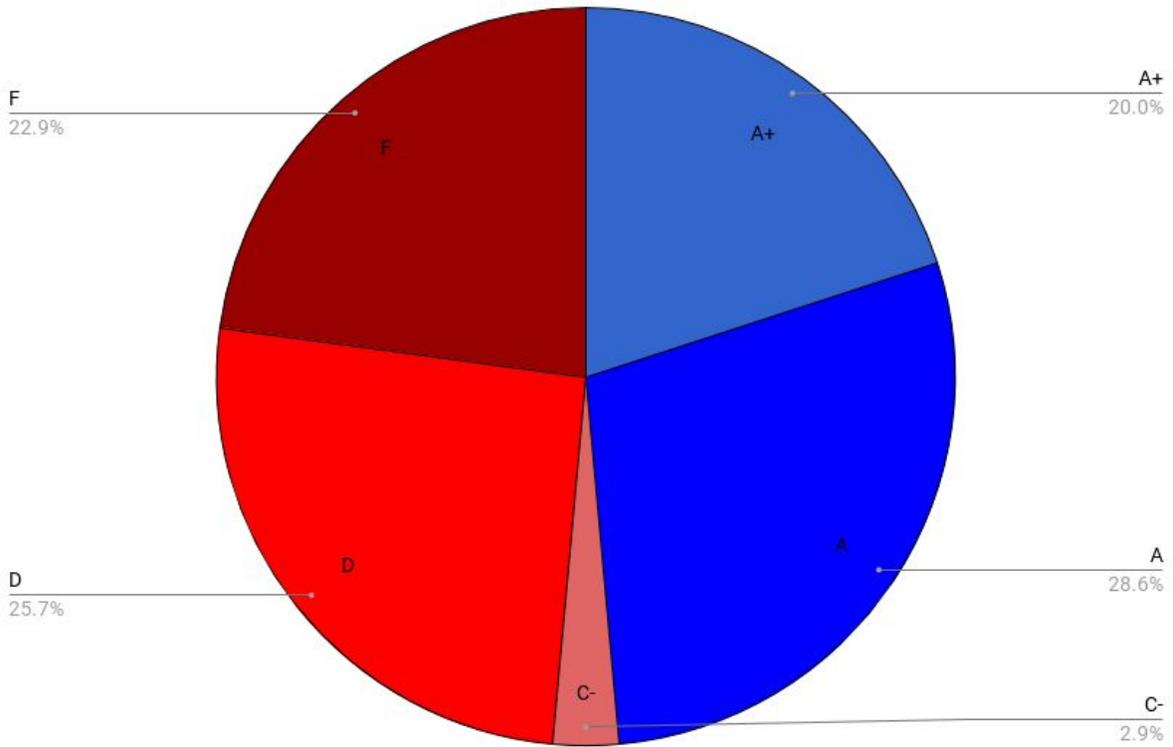
Becker, KC	A
Bridges, Jeff	A
Buckner, Janet	A
Jackson, Dominique J	A
Kennedy, Chris	A
Lebsock, Steve	A
Mitsch Bush, Diane	A
Pabon, Dan	A
Pettersen, Brittany	A
McLachlan, Barbara	A
Thurlow, Dan	C-
Wilson, Jim	C-
McKean, Hugh	C-
Catlin, Marc	C-
Buck, Perry	D
Landgraf, Lois	D
Saine, Lori	D
Becker, Jon	D
Rankin, Bob	D



Lawrence, Polly	D
Beckman, Susan	D
Sias, Lang	D
Liston, Larry	D
Carver, Terri	D
Everett, Justin	F
Ransom, Kim	F
Lewis, Kimmi	F
Nordberg, Dan	F
Van Winkle, Kevin	F
Wist, Cole	F
Neville, Patrick	F
Navarro-Ratzlaff, Clarice	F
Covarrubias, Philip	F
Lundeen, Paul	F
Humphrey, Stephen	F
Leonard, Timothy	F
Willett, Yeulin	F
Williams, Dave	F



2017 Colorado State Senate Report Card Grades



COLORADO STATE SENATE		GRADE
Moreno, Dominick		A+
Fields, Rhonda		A+
Kagan, Dan		A+
Court, Lois		A+
Guzman, Lucia		A+
Fenberg, Stephen		A+



Merrifield, Michael	A+
Todd, Nancy	A
Zenzinger, Rachel	A
Aguilar, Irene	A
Jones, Matt	A
Kefalas, John	A
Williams, Angela	A
Donovan, Kerry	A
Garcia, Leroy	A
Jahn, Cheri	A
Kerr, Andy	A
Grantham, Kevin	C-
Crowder, Larry	D
Martinez-Humenik, Beth	D
Priola, Kevin	D
Tate, Jack	D
Coram, Don	D
Holbert, Chris	D
Lambert, Kent	D



Lundberg, Kevin	D
Smallwood, James	D
Neville, Tim	F
Hill, Owen	F
Baumgardner, Randy	F
Scott, Ray	F
Sonnenberg, Jerry	F
Marble, Vicki	F
Cooke, John C	F
Gardner, Bob	F