

Memo

To: MS Society
From: Brandeberry McKenna Public Affairs (BBMK)
Date: January 11, 2017
Re: Opening Day

Today marked the official start of the 71st session of the Colorado General Assembly. It was a day mostly filled with opening day speeches, the swearing in of newly elected members and farewells to the previous legislative class.

The opening remarks of House and Senate leadership provide a preview into the priorities of each caucus. Speaker Duran, Minority Leader Neville, President Grantham and Minority Leader Guzman all emphasized a commitment to work together to solve issues important to all Coloradans.

A few key highlights:

- Identifying a statewide transportation solution is important to all four caucus leaders. The on-going bipartisan effort to craft a solution is moving forward, though details are not yet public.
- The House Democrats and the Senate Republicans have agreed to introduce legislation to address the construction defect issue. The bill would require the court to apportion the costs of defense, including reasonable attorney fees, among all insurers with a duty to defend.
- Senate President Kevin Grantham emphasized efficiencies in government by reducing regulatory burdens, preserving civil liberties, and an effort to repeal the state based exchange.
- Speaker of the House Crisanta Duran focused on the role of government to ensure equity and opportunity for all Coloradan's specifically with regards to access to education, employment and affordable housing.

Tomorrow Governor John Hickenlooper will present the State of the State address which will provide information about the Governor's priorities.

Links to the full speeches are as follows.

Senate President Kevin Grantham

<http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2017/01/11/text-opening-day-speech-by-colorado-senate.html>

Senate Minority Leader Lucia Guzman

<http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2017/01/11/text-opening-day-speech-guzman.html>

Speaker of the House Crisanta Duran

<http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2017/01/11/text-opening-day-speech-by-colorado-house-speaker.html>

House Minority Leader Patrick Neville

<http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2017/01/11/opening-day-speech-by-colorado-house-minority.html>