

COLORADO STATE SENATE

MAJORITY OFFICE



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Sen. Zenzinger leads charge to protect seniors

Gov. Hickenlooper applauds senior abuse prevention legislation



DENVER -- Estimates say that for every reported case of elder abuse, there are at least five cases that go unreported. Today, Gov. Hickenlooper announced that the state will enforce stricter laws against elder abuse starting this summer.

During the past legislative session, Sen. Zenzinger, D-Arvada, worked to establish a new crime called “criminal exploitation of at-risk elders” and added “exploitation” to the definition of abuse. Previously, exploitation of at-risk elders was charged as theft, with penalties ranging from a class 1 petty offense to a class 2 felony. Now, those who take advantage of seniors may be charged with this new crime -- a class 3 or class 5 felony. ([SB 14-98](#))

Her legislation, which has been in effect since April 7, complements a 2013 law that defines all mandatory reporting requirements for elder abuse. Those requirements go into effect on Tuesday, July 1, 2014.

“We are talking about grandmothers, grandfathers, and people who have given their lives to our communities,” Sen. Zenzinger said. “We need to protect, respect, and advocate for them so that they can age with the dignity and security they deserve.”

About Sen. Rachel Zenzinger

Sen. Rachel Zenzinger serves Colorado Senate District 19, which spans most of Arvada and the Jefferson County portion of Westminster. She was appointed to her seat and sworn into office on Dec. 13, 2013. She serves on the Senate Education Committee, Senate Local Government Committee and she is a Senate advisor to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Her professional background is in education, and she was coordinator of the Regis University Master of Arts in Education program. She worked four years for Catholic Charities of Denver. For more information about Sen. Zenzinger, please go to www.RachelForColorado.com or call her at 303-748-0770.

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