

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M26-0813.01 Jessica Wigent x3701

SJM26-001

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Senate Committees

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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 26-001

101 **CONCERNING MEMORIALIZING SENATOR FAITH WINTER.**

1 WHEREAS, Faith Winter, our beloved colleague, passed away on
2 November 26, 2025; and

3 WHEREAS, A native, fifth-generation Coloradan, Senator Winter
4 attended Littleton High School and the University of Redlands; and

5 WHEREAS, That she would end up in the state legislature
6 working on transportation and climate issues surprised few who knew her
7 as a young organizer. She interned with the Colorado Environmental
8 Coalition and trained with the Green Corps, eventually serving as
9 National Program Director for EnviroCitizen, a sustainability focused
10 initiative, and program director for Colorado Conservation Voters, which
11 works to protect the state's climate and advance environmental justice;
12 and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.

Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 WHEREAS, Senator Winter was elected to the Westminster City
2 Council in 2007; often the youngest woman and mom at the City
3 Council's dias, she would spend her entire career opening doors and
4 pulling out chairs for women, ensuring that they had a seat at the same
5 table; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Winter represented the people of Adams
7 County in the Colorado House of Representatives from 2015 through
8 2019 and the people of Adams, Broomfield, and Weld Counties in the
9 Colorado Senate from 2019 until her death; and

10 WHEREAS, A mentor and champion of women, throughout
11 convention halls and at community centers and kitchen counters and with
12 organizations like the White House Project, Emerge Colorado, and Vote
13 Run Lead, Senator Winter encouraged women to take the microphone and
14 then the ballot, training many future leaders to run for office; but her
15 support didn't stop there: As a Progressive Governance Academy trainer,
16 she shared her time and seemingly boundless energy to assist newly
17 elected leaders across the country; and

18 WHEREAS, Named one of Governing Magazine's public officials
19 of the year in 2018 and one of 5280 Magazine's disrupters changing the
20 local political landscape in 2019, while Senator Winter was often
21 recognized for her individual contributions, she always worked to shine
22 the light on others -- "we lift as we rise" was her mantra; and

23 WHEREAS, One of her most important legacies, the "Paid Family
24 and Medical Leave Insurance Act", came to fruition in 2020. Senator
25 Winter's advocacy and legislative work helped pave the way for the
26 successful initiative. She spent years "losing forward", as she called it:
27 When she would introduce a bill, she knew that, even though it might not
28 pass, its defeat would give organizers more time to build the coalition and
29 refine the policy; and

30 WHEREAS, But more than 200 of Senator Winter's bills did pass.
31 In 2021, she was a Senate prime sponsor of House Bill 21-1266, the
32 "Environmental Justice Act", which strengthened regulations on
33 greenhouse gas emissions and centered communities disproportionately
34 impacted by pollution; the next year, Senate bills she sponsored instituted
35 "free fares for clean air" on public transportation throughout the state and
36 created the rural health-care workforce initiative to financially support

1 students in the health-care field so they could practice in, and better serve,
2 the people of rural Colorado; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Winter worked with her colleagues across the
4 aisle to pass bipartisan bills on conservation easements, protection orders
5 for crime victims and affordable housing programs for victims of abuse,
6 soil health, and ballot access for candidates with disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, During her ten sessions under the dome, Senator
8 Winter chaired the Transportation and Energy Committees in the Senate
9 and the House, vice-chaired the House Business Affairs and Labor
10 Committee and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and
11 served on many more, including Legislative Council, the Transportation
12 Legislation Review Committee, and the Colorado Youth Advisory
13 Council Committee; and

14 WHEREAS, A longtime supporter of animal rights and former
15 board member of Broomfield's Butterfly Pavilion, Senator Winter brought
16 a special guest, the Pavilion's Rosie the Tarantula, to the Senate floor
17 several years in a row; Queso, one of her four beloved dogs, could often
18 be seen roaming the second floor, sometimes in a tuxedo; and

19 WHEREAS, As caring as she was driven, the small stick of
20 dynamite tattooed on Senator Winter's arm was a fitting metaphor for her
21 spark, her potential, and the transformative power she wielded in order to
22 make a lasting impact on, and to improve the lives of, every person in the
23 state; and

24 WHEREAS, She fought, often in flip flops, for Coloradans to
25 breathe cleaner air and to spend more time with their families; she cared
26 about and ran bills to help coal workers, working moms, and eating
27 disorder patients; to empower legislative aides and tenants; to protect
28 transgender people; and to make sure high school students had access to
29 menstrual products. She was bold and resilient, grounded and persistent;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Colorado is a better place because of a little girl who
32 was grateful for "waterfalls and rainbows" and who grew up to dedicate
33 her life to public service, helping to protect those precious resources as
34 she championed renewable energy, electric vehicles, and public
35 transportation; now, therefore,

1 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly*
2 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

3 (1) That in losing Faith Winter, the people of the State of
4 Colorado have lost a devoted public servant and invaluable friend and
5 colleague who led, listened, legislated, and laughed with her whole heart;

6 (2) That we extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy to her family
7 and friends; and

8 (3) That we pay tribute to a woman who believed that every
9 Coloradan was worth fighting for, and we remember the caring warrior
10 she was as we continue her work to create a greener, fairer, and kinder
11 Colorado.

12 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent
13 to Senator Winter's children, Sienna and Tobin, and their father, Mark
14 Snook; her partner, Matt Gray, and his children, Ellie and Theo; her
15 father, Michael Winter; and her sister, Dawn Stevens.