

# COLORADO STATE SENATE

MAJORITY OFFICE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 10, 2014

## Senate passes Sen. Zenzinger's first bill



DENVER -- The Colorado Senate has passed Sen. Rachel Zenzinger's first bill, which bolsters the law protecting citizens from elder abuse. Senate Bill 14-098 passed today unanimously on third reading with bipartisan cosponsors, and now heads to the Colorado House of Representatives for consideration.

According to [national studies](#), more than 7.6 percent of elders have experienced abuse within the last year. Sen. Zenzinger believes elder abuse in Colorado will grow worse if we do not remedy it, as the state's elder population is expected to grow by 27 percent by 2017 and 142 percent by 2032.

"Colorado seniors should be respected and treated with fairness, and they deserve to have a strong sense of security," said Sen. Zenzinger, D-Arvada, the bill's sponsor. "As a community, we must advocate for at-risk elders and develop the necessary tools and laws to keep them and their finances safe."

Sen. Zenzinger's bill establishes a new crime called "criminal exploitation of at-risk elders" and adds "exploitation" to the definition of abuse. The bill changes mandatory elder abuse reporting requirements and requires that local law enforcement or county social services departments be notified first, rather than the district attorney. These modifications would allow the problems of elder abuse to be addressed more quickly, and at a local level.

**ABOUT SEN 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 and 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 spent four years working for Catholic Charities of Denver. For more information about Sen. Zenzinger, please go to [www.RachelForColorado.com](http://www.RachelForColorado.com) or call her at 303-748-0770.**