**How our Brave Spaces Legislative Advocacy Impacted the People of Colorado in 2022**

Thank you all for your active engagement in advocating for important social and racial justice bills this 2022 Legislative Session. The bills that we advocated for will impact positively the lives of the people of Colorado, especially people of color. Below is a list of how our efforts made a difference.

* Voters at polling places will not be intimidated by people who are open=carrying of firearms near polling places and ballot drop-off locations.
* Citizen who have paid their debt for non-violent crimes can rebuild their lives (obtain jobs and housing) because records of arrest and incarceration will be automatically sealed, a right already enjoyed by those with means to pay for the complicated filing process.
* Colorado citizens who have committed minor crimes, charged in Municipal Courts are guaranteed the right to bond hearings within 48 hours. 48 hours-to release on bond can protect housing, jobs, and even custody of children.
* Children 10 – 13 can still be prosecuted in the juvenile justice system, but the legislature did commission and funded a study to learn more about the needs of these very vulnerable kids, who, in most cases, are accused of non-violent crimes, and who can be better served by community-based programs, rather than the juvenile justice system.
* Colorado students who have been in foster care have access to free undergraduate tuition and fees, providing them with a pathway to gainful employment, personal growth, and stability as adults.
* Mobile home residents have new rights and protections from the predatory practices of investors and private equity firms, who tend to raise rents precipitously forcing many owners to abandon their owned homes.
* Juneteenth is a new state holiday, recognizing and celebrating the true African American Freedom Day. June 19 was the day in 1865 when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas to free the country’s last remaining enslaved people.
* Pregnant women and children will have access to healthcare, regardless of their immigration status. Access to healthcare is an important determinant of health and a key building block for family financial security.

Unfortunately, it is still legal to lie and deceive children to extract often false confessions in Colorado. A significantly amended version of SB22-023 was the last bill scheduled to be heard as Midnight approached on May 11. The sponsors chose to pull it, rather than pass a toothless bill. We hope that the full bill, making it illegal to lie to children will be introduced and passed in 2023.