



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## HB 2615

campuses; free speech zone; prohibition  
Prime Sponsor: Representative Kern, LD 20

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**X** Committee on Government and Higher Education

Caucus and COW

House Engrossed

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### **OVERVIEW**

HB 2615 prohibits the designation of any area on a community college or university as a free speech zone.

### **PROVISIONS**

1. Prohibits a community college or university from designating any area on campus as a free speech zone.
2. Requires conversion of any free speech zone to a monument or memorial in existence on the effective date.

### **CURRENT LAW**

A university or community college is prohibited from restricting a student's right to speak, including verbal speech, holding a sign or distributing fliers or other materials, in a public forum. The only circumstances in which a public postsecondary institution may restrict a student's speech in a public forum is if the restriction is both in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering the compelling governmental interest ([A.R.S. § 15-1864](#)).

A *public forum* includes any open, outdoor area on the campus of a university or community college and any facilities, buildings or parts of buildings that have been opened to students or student organizations for expression ([A.R.S. § 15-1861](#)).