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Equality State Policy Center Supports Transparency and Public Participation in Upcoming Special Session

LARAMIE, WY — The Equality State Policy Center (ESPC) urges lawmakers in the 66th Wyoming State Legislature to emphasize transparency and encourage public participation during [the upcoming special session](#). The legislature [voted 52-19](#) to hold an unscheduled legislative session, estimated to cost taxpayers at least \$118,000, to address federal policies related to covid-19.

ESPC's mission is to improve the lives of all Wyoming's people through transparent government, fair elections and thriving communities. It is crucial to our mission that both public participation and transparency in how the session comes together, what rules are passed, and how bills are worked in both chambers are preserved during this unscheduled session.

"ESPC strongly encourages lawmakers to focus on transparency and public participation since both are necessary to democracy, especially during a special session," said Jenn Lowe, executive director of ESPC. "A special session does not permit for the normal process of planning and participation and lawmakers must take this into account."

The special session process has been initiated pursuant to Joint Rule 18-1. The expedited legislative process required of special sessions often includes mirror bills in which both bodies pass similar legislation to save time. [Mirror bills](#) limit public participation because they limit the number of times a bill is heard at a public meeting.

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