



# TAKEACTION

## *2017 Legislative Report*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) entered the 2017 legislative session on high alert because of the threats to the Affordable Care Act – specifically Medicaid – and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding on the national level. The Coalition’s primary goal was to protect the most vulnerable Coloradans in anticipation of significant changes at the federal level to the benefits that keep them afloat.

With split chambers – Republicans controlling the State Senate and Democrats dominating the State House of Representatives – it is challenging to pass sweeping reforms, but there was a great deal of support from both sides of the aisle for the work CCH does to provide housing, integrated healthcare, vocational, and supportive services. There was also broad acknowledgement that Colorado is experiencing a housing and homelessness crisis, but there were stark differences in legislators’ ideas of how to address these issues, whether it was through tapping into new funding streams, imposing regulations, or allowing the market to “correct itself” without interference.

While the Coalition’s Education and Advocacy (E&A) team is small and a relatively new presence at the Capitol, we were able to elevate our mission and establish ourselves as subject matter experts. With guidance from our contract lobbyists at Mendez Consulting, E&A team members, direct care providers, case managers, and clients offered powerful testimony under the golden dome. Of the 681 bills introduced this session, CCH monitored 191, actively supported 28 bills, took a neutral position on 1, and opposed 3. The desired outcome was achieved on 20 bills.

Where CCH succeeded, the positive effects will be felt among vulnerable Coloradans who have been historically marginalized. Where the Coalition fell short, the conversation will no doubt continue in the interim and into the 2018 legislative session. This year’s session provided a strong framework to continue working toward structural solutions to homelessness.

### **PRIORITIES**

Our priorities going into the 2017 legislative session included:

- Establishing a permanent statewide affordable housing fund to finance development of affordable housing units, wraparound services, and rental assistance;
- Supporting measures aimed at keeping people in their homes, including expanding tenants’ rights and strengthening the supportive services that keep people from falling back into homelessness;
- Defending the rights of unhoused Coloradans;
- Protecting access to health care services and coverage for all Coloradans, especially those that are most vulnerable;
- Advocating for support and funding for greater access to behavioral health care;
- Addressing the overuse of the criminal justice system in place of real solutions like appropriate behavioral health care, services, workforce reentry, and true crime prevention; and
- Supporting efforts to put more money in parents’ pockets and to increase funding for programs that allow parents more flexibility to work and parent.

## **SUCCESSSES** \* See complete bill list pages 6-9

### *Budget Wins*

After months of late nights and tense negotiations, the Coalition was pleased that \$15.3 million from the marijuana tax cash fund will be transferred to the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for affordable housing. The bulk of the fund will be used to develop permanent supportive housing units for Coloradans experiencing chronic homelessness. It will also fund the wraparound services necessary to help these new tenants remain housed. Another portion of the appropriations will fund the development of housing for persons exiting the state mental hospital, who may otherwise fall into homelessness. DOLA's early estimates indicated that over five years this fund would support production of more than 1,800 housing units.

Governor Hickenlooper's request called for \$16.3 million, and was initially refused by the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). As the end of the legislative session neared, it reentered the conversation. CCH, as well as our partners at DOLA and Housing Colorado met with JBC members and other key legislators to ensure that the funding would be approved. There was concern that current law would not, and should not, allow for marijuana tax cash fund dollars to be spent on housing. Ultimately the Coalition was successful in establishing the nexus between housing, healthcare, and mental healthcare. The final vote in the Senate was 19-16, with unanimous support from Democrats and support from two Republicans. The Coalition is encouraged that the General Assembly ultimately voted to address Colorado's housing crisis and support our most vulnerable neighbors.

While \$15.3 may seem like a pittance in light of the overwhelming need – indeed it will not solve the problem entirely – each dollar of gap funding for affordable housing can be leveraged for an average of 7 additional dollars. This appropriation will supplement the \$8.25 million in the Affordable Housing Grants Line Item – consistent with last year's funding – in the FY 2017-2018 budget. This is intended to be an annual appropriation, although there will no doubt be dispute over these precious dollars in years to come.

While CCH was focused on the Governor's request, other budget battles were brewing. As in most years, one of the greatest challenges is balancing the budget. Every piece of possible legislation with a fiscal impact hinges on this act. This year, a number of competing interest including K-12 education, transportation, healthcare, affordable housing, and rural communities vied for a piece of the \$28 billion budget. The crux of the debate was the multi-year effort to create a Hospital Provider Fee enterprise, reclassifying the fee so it no longer counts against the state's TABOR cap. In the last hours of the 2017 legislative session, Democrats and Republicans arrived at a compromise.

Most notably, the omnibus bill prevented a \$528 million cut in payments to hospitals, which may have caused a number of hospitals to close, especially in rural areas. While it permanently reduces the amount of money the state is permitted to collect and retain under TABOR by \$200 million, the bill also frees up funding for other priorities. Additionally, it increases marijuana taxes to 15 percent, rather than decreasing it from 10 to 8 percent as planned. Our main concern is that under this bill, Medicaid co-pays roughly double. While an increase from \$2 to \$4 for outpatient care may not seem consequential, for example, for someone experiencing homelessness, this could put medical care out of reach. While this change will not impact our clients, the Coalition will closely monitor how the co-pay increase affects unhoused persons across the state who see private providers.

### *Leadership in Housing Policy*

This year, the Coalition established itself as leaders in housing policy. CCH approaches housing matters from a unique position -- as fervent advocates for Coloradans experiencing homelessness or living on the edge of homelessness, as well as developers and property managers. CCH operates nearly 2,000 affordable housing units and works with property managers throughout Colorado to house another 600 households. Coalition staff intimately understand the need for affordable housing in our state and the individuals and families in search of it. Our staff members are also experts in what it takes to build, maintain, and keep residents in housing units.

This session, CCH established relationships with a number of property management companies in Colorado who then advocated on behalf of our priority bills. The Coalition was also able to help broker compromises with the powerful Colorado Apartment Association. CCH worked closely with other advocacy-focused organizations to develop policy recommendations and strategies for messaging and organizing support. CCH actively engaged in every piece of legislation introduced this session related to affordable housing and renters' rights.

The Coalition actively supported two successful bills that strengthen protections for renters. The first (**HB17-1035**) allows survivors of sexual assault and stalking to break a lease with minimal repercussions. (Survivors of domestic violence are already able to do this.) It also provides that a statement from a medical professional or from an application assistant designated by the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) confirming the tenant's experience is a sufficient means of presenting evidence to the property manager. The bill flew through the House and was amended in the Senate to apply only to new lease agreements. With some reluctance, the bill sponsors and the advocates backing the bill agreed that this would be preferable to risking its passage. Three CCH staff members testified in support of the bill, sharing their personal experiences with abuse and assault as well as their expertise on the issue through the lens of their work with clients. This bill will reduce physical and mental health trauma by giving survivors of abuse the opportunity to escape from an unsafe household instead of choosing to stay in a dangerous environment because of the financial burden of leaving.

The second bill (**SB17-245**) extends notice to quit and notice of rent increase for month-to-month tenants from 7 days to 21 days. This ensures that Colorado's most vulnerable renters, including persons with disabilities and seniors, are given a much more reasonable amount of time to find a new home. A similar bill was introduced and killed during the 2016 session. That bill would have increased the required notice period from 7 to 28 days. This year, advocates worked closely with the Colorado Apartment Association to reach a compromise. CCH staff testified in strong support of the bill because forced moves are a leading cause of family homelessness. Having to find a new affordable home in just 7 days is next to impossible in Colorado's hot housing market, especially for families with children, persons with disabilities, and older Coloradans.

CCH also led the charge to kill a bill that would have stripped renters of their rights. The bill (**HB17-1159**) would have allowed property managers to shortcut the eviction judicial process by obtaining a court order that would give the landlord possession of a property before an actual eviction hearing is held. It also would have created two new crimes—unlawful occupancy and unlawful reentry—that would have been punishable by a fine as much as \$25,000. This violates due process and increases the criminalization of homelessness. Well over 20 organizations joined in opposing the bill. Noting the strong opposition to the bill, and the failure to engage stakeholders on all sides of the issue, the sponsor postponed the bill indefinitely at its first committee hearing. A similar bill will likely be introduced next session, but due to our engagement with the bill sponsors and proponents, CCH will be at the table during the interim to help shape the forthcoming proposal to ensure that it will not result in an increase in homelessness or the criminalization of vulnerable Coloradans.

The Coalition worked closely with Sen. Kefalas (D-Fort Collins) to develop a bill that would have established a permanent, statewide affordable housing fund. The bill (**SB17-SCR002**) would have eliminated the prohibition in the state constitution on new or increased transfer taxes on real property and created a tax on the recording of each real property deed at the rate of 1/10 of one percent of the value of the real property to fund affordable housing. For example, a tax on a \$400,000 home would be \$400. The money collected was to be administered by the Division of Housing within the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to fund construction, maintenance, rehabilitation, and repair of affordable housing for rental purposes and homeownership, including manufactured and mobile homes. The fund would have also supported the wraparound services that help renters be successful in their homes, consistent with the permanent supportive housing model. The bill aimed to help Coloradans at 30 percent and 60 percent of area median income (AMI), as research indicates that is where the greatest need is. Had the bill passed, the measure would have gone to the ballot. While the bill was ultimately killed, they elevated the conversation around affordable housing for the lowest income earners in the state.

CCH was also involved in the stakeholder process behind another bill (**HB17-1309**) that aimed to fund affordable housing across the state. The bill would have added a fee at a rate of \$0.01 per \$100 to the overall

closing cost on the sale of commercial and residential real estate costs on the sale of commercial and residential real estate to support affordable housing. The bill defines “affordable housing” as housing affordable to household incomes up to 80 percent AMI for rental occupancy and up to 110 percent AMI for homeowners. While we applauded the efforts of the sponsors and other stakeholders, we remained neutral. We advocated for the funds to be more deeply targeted in order to address the devastating deficit of affordable homes for those living with the lowest incomes, or with no income at all. The bill also failed to provide direction to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) on how to allocate the funds so that projects that address the greatest need and can guarantee long-term affordability are prioritized. The bill failed, but the Coalition looks forward to working with the bill sponsors and partners including Housing Colorado to address the state’s housing crisis going forward.

### *Housing, Healthcare, and Behavioral Healthcare*

The Coalition succeeded in making the critical connection between housing, healthcare, and behavioral healthcare. It is generally understood that housing is a social determinate of health, meaning it is one of the many structural factors throughout a lifespan that influence physical health, mental health, and well-being. This year, it was the Coalition’s challenge to encourage the Colorado General Assembly to shape policies with this lens in mind.

The feeling of privacy, stability, and control housing provides is critical to maintaining good health. Affordable housing frees up income to pay for healthful food, healthcare, and safe childcare. In contrast, poor quality housing, and even more so, homelessness, contributes to health problems such as mental illness, behavioral health challenges, diseases, injuries, and delayed childhood development. When individuals and families have secure, affordable housing, they are less likely to experience the stress associated with financial insecurity and frequent or forced moves that can lead to a number of mental and physical health concerns. Each of these pieces – affordable housing, healthcare, and resources to address behavioral health challenges – must be in place for individuals, families, and communities to thrive.

CCH backed two successful bills aimed at broadening support for individuals experiencing mental health challenges. The first (**SB17-021**) allows transfers from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to fund housing vouchers and supportive services for persons with a mental illness who are exiting the Department of Corrections (DOC) or jails. It also allows Marijuana Tax Cash Fund moneys to be used for housing, rental assistance, and reentry assistance. This bill was developed by the housing subcommittee of a legislative task force concerning the treatment of persons with mental illness in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Coalition leadership and direct service staff were actively involved in the stakeholder process. One staff member gave public testimony in favor of the bill, speaking to its importance to the clients she works with. Proponents’ testimony and hard work lead to the bill’s passage.

The second bill (**SB17-207**), enacted with CCH’s support, expands and strengthens Colorado’s behavioral health crisis response system by putting systems in place to help Colorado end the use of jails and correctional facilities as placement options for individuals placed on emergency mental health holds. The crisis system is intended to provide an appropriate first line of response to individuals in need of an emergency 72-hour mental health hold.

The Coalition also advocated for a bill to ensure that homeless and low-income Coloradans receive necessary healthcare services. This bill (**SB17-121**) requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to engage in an ongoing process to improve Medicaid client communications, including client letters and notices that concern eligibility for or the denial, reduction, suspension, or termination of a benefit. Nearly 70 percent of the patients CCH sees are Medicaid recipients. For the Coalition’s health centers to run smoothly, and more importantly, for patients’ lives to run smoothly, it is important for Medicaid client communications to be accurate, clear, and provide all the necessary information for the recipient to take action if needed. Even short gaps in coverage can be detrimental to patients’ health. CCH staff gave testimony in support of the bill, which ultimately passed.

## **INTERIM COMMITTEES**

In partnership with a number of other advocacy organizations, including the Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP) and the Colorado Cross Disabilities Coalition (CCDC), the Coalition pushed for two interim committees. The Coalition joined Representatives Duran (D-Denver) and McLachlan (D-Durango) in urging the approval of an Interim Study Committee on Attainable Housing and Homelessness Prevention.

The policy issues to be studied included:

- The availability of and demand for attainable housing throughout the state, including the causes of rising home prices and apartment rents;
- Approaches to increase the supply of attainable housing, including addressing the needs of urban, rural, and suburban areas;
- Approaches to support the preservation of existing attainable housing, including manufactured housing communities;
- Ways to encourage repurposing of existing buildings to provide attainable housing;
- Approaches to help middle- and low-income individuals attain or retain home ownership;
- Reforms in state landlord/tenant laws that could help prevent renters from becoming homeless; and
- Proposals to provide assistance for a low-income tenant to avoid eviction where possible and consistent with the obligations of his or her rental agreements.

CCH also worked with Representative Landgraf (R-Colorado Springs) (supported by a group of 19 bipartisan legislators) on a proposal for an Interim Study Committee Regarding Policies to Improve Access to Disability Support Programs. Colorado's range of disability benefit services support our most vulnerable neighbors – those with low or no income and very few assets, seniors, and individuals with disabilities that preclude them from gainful work. The small stipends help qualifying individuals meet their most basic needs. For many Coloradans, these programs are their sole source of income. The committee would have addressed programs including Supplemental Security Income (SSI), the Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND) program, and the Property Tax/Rent/Heat Credit (PTC) rebate.

The policy issues to be studied were:

- Maximizing administrative efficiency of disability support programs by ensuring that applicants who meet eligibility requirements for multiple programs are assessed without duplicative verification;
- Encouraging proactive screening of individuals who may be eligible for disability support programs, such as Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND), Social Security Income (SSI), and Property Tax/Rent/Heat Credit Rebate (PTC);
- Reducing the state's fiscal burden by ensuring the availability of SSI application assistance; and
- Reducing inefficiencies in the AND application process.

The Legislative Council Committee was only able to approve four interim committees. Unfortunately, neither of the committees spearheaded by the Coalition were selected. The Committee chose to prioritize Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders in Colorado, Support for Young and Beginning Farmers, Comprehensive Sentencing Reform in the Criminal Justice System, and State and Local Public Safety Solutions. While CCH is disappointed that its priorities will not be addressed in the interim, the Coalition will contribute to the work of the interim committees that were approved however possible.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

CCH's work is made possible by the strong partnerships the Coalition has developed with other direct service providers, advocacy organizations, coalitions, state agencies, and elected officials. This year, the Coalition was able to take on a number of leadership roles in the community. CCH acted as the Legislative Chair for the All Families Deserve a Chance (AFDC) Coalition, shaping the group's legislative agenda and advocacy efforts. The Coalition is also an active member of the Colorado Social Legislative Committee (CSLC), and was invited to speak on a panel about legislation around housing and homelessness, and the direct services the organization provides. CCH also participated in a number of policy tables dedicated to affordable housing and renters' rights, taking on research responsibilities and drumming up support for priority bills. The Coalition also co-chaired the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Legislative Breakfast, a bi-partisan forum to address Colorado's to

support women, girls and families. CCH staff also participated on the housing subcommittee of the legislative task force concerning the treatment of persons with mental illness in the criminal and juvenile justice systems, which was the genesis of one of our priority bills (SB17-021).

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

There is still a great deal of work to be done to address housing, healthcare, and our state's weak safety net. The Coalition has strong commitments from a number of legislators to work together over the interim to develop possible solutions for next year. CCH's first priority heading into the 2018 legislative session will be to develop a permanent, statewide affordable housing fund.

The Coalition will continue to work proactively to protect Coloradans from possible policy and funding changes on the federal level. CCH will also continue to defend Medicaid, encourage support for Community Health Centers, tap into creative funding streams for housing, defend the rights of unhoused persons, work to improve disability benefit services, and protect low-income families, women, and older Coloradans.

## PRIORITY BILL LIST

CCH took action including shaping policy through the stakeholder process<sup>1</sup>, direct lobbying<sup>2</sup>, letter-writing<sup>3</sup>, grassroots organizing<sup>4</sup>, and testifying<sup>5</sup> on the following bills:

### Housing

Bill #	Sponsors	Bill Summary	Position Action	Outcome
<b>HB 17-1026</b> Reverse Mortgage Repayment When Home Uninhabitable	Rep. Singer (D) Sen. Jones (D)	The bill allows the borrower in a reverse mortgage transaction to be relieved of the obligation to occupy the subject property as a principal residence if a serious incident beyond the borrower's control renders the property uninhabitable.	Support 2	Failed
<b>HB 17-1309</b> Documentary Fee To Fund Affordable Housing	Rep. Jackson (D) Rep. Winter (D) Sen. Guzman (D) Sen. Coram (R)	The bill adds a fee of \$0.01 per \$100 valuation to the overall closing costs on the sale of commercial and residential real estate to fund affordable housing.	Monitor 1,2	Failed
<b>SB 17-021</b> Assistance to Released Mentally Ill Offenders	Rep. Singer (D) Sen. Martinez Humenik (R)	The bill allows transfers from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to fund vouchers and supportive services for persons with a mental illness who are exiting the Department of Corrections (DOC) or jails.	Support 1,2,3,5	Passed
<b>SB 17-SCR002</b> Real Estate Transfer Tax To Fund Affordable Housing	Sen. Kefalas (D)	The concurrent resolution creates a tax on the recording of each real property deed at the rate of 1/10 of one percent of the value of the real property to fund affordable housing.	Support 1,2,4,5	Failed

### Renters' Rights

Bill #	Sponsors	Bill Summary	Position Action	Outcome
<b>HB 17-1035</b> Sex Assault and Stalking Victims May Break Leases Supporting	Rep. Jackson (D) Sen. Cooke (R)	The bill allows survivors of sexual assault and stalking to break their rental agreements with minimal repercussions and provides that a doctor's note is an acceptable form of proof.	Support 2,5	Passed
<b>HB 17-1159</b> Remedies for Forcible Entry and Detainer	Rep. Becker (R) Sen. Cooke (R)	The bill allows property managers to shortcut the eviction judicial process by obtaining a temporary injunction to take possession of the property.	Oppose 2,3,4	Failed
<b>HB 17-1310</b> Residential Landlord Application Screening Fee	Rep. Kennedy (D) Rep. Jackson (D) Sen. Fenberg (D)	The bill limits the fee a property manager may charge a prospective tenant to the actual cost to screen the tenant and requires an itemized receipt or list of projected costs.	Support 1,2,4,5	Failed
<b>HB 17-1312</b> Residential Lease Copy And Rent Receipt	Rep. Benavidez (D) Rep. Exum (D) Sen. Martinez Humenik (R) Sen. Moreno (D)	The bill requires residential property managers to provide each tenant with a copy of a fully executed lease and a receipt for a payment made with cash or a money order.	Support 1,2,4,5	Failed
<b>SB 17-245</b> Tenancies One Month To One Year Notice	Rep. Pabon (D) Sen. Priola (R)	The bill extends the notice property managers must give to terminate a month-to-month tenancy from 7 days to 21 days.	Support 2,5	Passed

### Homelessness

Bill #	Sponsors	Bill Summary	Position Action	Outcome
<b>HB 17-1055</b> Create New Tax Check-off for Urban Peak	Rep. Herod (D) Sen. Gardner (R)	The bill creates on the state individual tax return forms the option to give to the Urban Peak Housing and Support Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness fund.	Support 2	Passed

<b>HB 17-1314</b> Colorado Right to Rest Act	Rep. Melton (D) Rep. Salazar (D)	The bill establishes that persons experiencing homelessness cannot be criminalized for basic acts of survival.	Support 2,5	Failed
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## Healthcare

Bill #	Sponsors	Bill Summary	Position <i>Action</i>	Outcome
<b>SB 17-003</b> Repeal Colorado Health Benefit Exchange	Rep. Neville (R) Sen. Smallwood (R)	The bill repeals the 2010 act that created the Colorado Health Benefits.	Oppose 2	Failed
<b>SB 17-121</b> Improve Medicaid Client Correspondence	Rep. Landgraf (R) Rep. Danielson (D) Sen. Lundberg (R) Sen. Crowder (R)	The bill requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to engage in an ongoing process to improve Medicaid client communications that concern eligibility for or the denial, reduction, suspension, or termination of a benefit.	Support 5	Passed
<b>SB 17-074</b> Create Medication-assisted Treatment Pilot Program	Rep. Esgar (D) Sen. Garcia (D)	The bill creates a pilot program in certain areas of the state experiencing high levels of opioid addiction to award grants to increase access to addiction treatment.	Support 2	Passed
<b>SB 17-193</b> Research Center Prevention Substance Abuse Addiction	Rep. Pettersen (D) Rep. Rankin (R) Sen. Jahn (D) Sen. Lundberg (R)	The bill establishes a center for research into prevention strategies for, and treatment of, abuse of and addiction to opioids, other controlled substances, and alcohol at the University of Colorado health sciences center.	Support 2	Passed
<b>SB 17-203</b> Prohibit Carrier From Requiring Alternative Drug	Rep. Kennedy (D) Rep. Covarrubias (R) Sen. Todd (D)	The bill prohibits a carrier from requiring a covered person to undergo step therapy.	Support 2	Passed
<b>SB 17-207</b> Strengthen Colorado Behavioral Health Crisis System	Rep. Salazar (D) Rep. Sias (R) Sen. Cooke (R) Sen. Kagan (D)	The bill puts systems in place to help Colorado end the use of jails and correctional facilities as placement options for individuals placed on emergency mental health holds.	Support 2	Passed
<b>SB 17-264</b> Funding For Behavioral Mental Health Disorder Services	Rep. Moreno (D) Sen. Young (D)	The bill clarifies that the authorized purposes for which the marijuana tax cash fund may be used include behavioral services.	Support 2	Passed

## Criminal Justice Reform

Bill #	Sponsors	Bill Summary	Position <i>Action</i>	Outcome
<b>HB 17-1204</b> Juvenile Delinquency Record Expungement	Rep. Lee (D) Sen. Cooke (R)	The bill creates protections for juveniles with delinquency record.	Support 2	Passed
<b>HB 17-1305</b> Limits On Job Applicant Criminal History Inquiries	Rep. Foote (D) Rep. Melton (D) Sen. Guzman (D)	The bill prohibits employers from making an inquiry about an applicant's criminal history on an initial application.	Support 2,5	Failed

## Supporting Women and Families

Bill #	Sponsors	Bill Summary	Position <i>Action</i>	Outcome
<b>HB 17-1001</b> Employee Leave Attend Child's Academic Activities	Rep. Buckner (D) Sen. Kerr (D)	The bill allows and employee to take up to eighteen hours of leave from work per year to attend his or her child's academic activities.	Support 2	Failed
<b>HB 17-1002</b> Child Care Expenses Income Tax Credit Extension	Rep. Pettersen (D) Rep. Exum (D) Sen. Kefalas (D) Sen. Martinez Humenik (R)	The bill extends the refundable state tax credit for childcare expenses for low-income Coloradans for three years.	Support 2	Passed

<b>HB 17-1087</b> Office of Public Guardianship	Rep. Young (D) Sen. Lundberg (R)	The bill creates the Office of Public Guardianship as a pilot program to provide legal guardianship services to indigent and incapacitated adults who have no responsible family members or friends to serve as a guardian.	Support 3	Passed
<b>HB 17-1127</b> Sales Tax Exemption For Feminine Hygiene Products	Rep. Lontine (D) Sen. Martinez Humenik (R)	The bill creates a state sales tax exemption for feminine hygiene products.	Support 3	Failed
<b>SB 17-028</b> Healthy Families and Military Preparedness Act	Rep. Nordberg (R) Rep. Exum (D) Sen. Gardner (R)	The bill requires departments of human/social services to share information with the command authority of national military installations regarding reports of child abuse or neglect in which the person with custody is affiliated with the armed forces.	Support 2	Passed

## Social Justice

Bill #	Sponsors	Bill Summary	Position	Outcome
<b>HB 17-1188</b> Harassment Sexual Orientation or Disability	Rep. Foote (D) Sen. Coram (R) Sen. Moreno (D)	The bill adds physical or mental disability and sexual orientation to the categories described in the harassment statute to make the statute consistent with Colorado's law concerning bias-motivated crimes.	Support 2	Passed
<b>SB 17-246</b> Legislative Committee Person With Mental Health Disorder Justice System	Rep. Singer (D) Rep. Michaelson (D) Sen. Martinez Humenik	The bill modernizes terminology related to mental health disorders.	Support 2	Passed
<b>SB 17-283</b> Clarify Discrimination And Right To Disagree	Sen. Lundberg (R)	The bill specifies that it is not a discriminatory practice for a private business to decline to contract to provide goods or services based on their personal beliefs.	Oppose 2	Failed

## Education

Bill #	Sponsors	Bill Summary	Position	Outcome
<b>HB 17-1007</b> Tax Benefit Employer ColleeInvest Contribution	Rep. Garnett (D) Sen. Gardner (R)	The bill creates a tax benefit for an employer who contributes to an employee's ColleeInvest account.	Support 2	Failed
<b>HB 17-1180</b> Tuition Assistance for Certificate Programs	Rep. Lawrence (R) Rep. Winter (D) Sen. Kerr (D) Sen. Neville (R)	The bill makes the federal Pell grant program available to students enrolled in certificate programs that do not meet the minimum credit hour requirements.	Support 2	Passed

## Budget

Bill #	Sponsors	Bill Summary	Position	Outcome
<b>HB 17-1187</b> Change Excess State Revenues Cap Growth Factor	Rep. Thurlow (R) Sen. Crowder (R)	The bill modifies the TABOR cap by allowing an annual adjustment for an increase based on the average annual change of Colorado personal income over the last 5 years.	Support 2	Failed
<b>SB 17-057</b> Colorado Healthcare Affordability & Sustainability Enterprise	Sen. Guzman (D)	The bill converts the Hospital Provider Fee into an enterprise.	Support 2	Failed