



House Democrats went into the 2019 session focused on building an economy that expands opportunity for all, investing in our future, and protecting the Colorado Way of Life. This year we were able to turn many of our popular proposals into law, moving forward on measures to lower the cost of health care, invest in education, build a fair economy, address climate change, tackle the opioid crisis, reform our criminal justice system, and help hardworking Coloradans get ahead.

End of Session Update

2019-20 COLORADO BUDGET

The bipartisan \$32.4 billion budget delivers for all Coloradans by prioritizing investments in education, transportation, and mental and behavioral health. Some highlights of the budget include:

- Invests \$185.5 million to implement full-day kindergarten in Colorado, and an additional \$20 million for rural schools, \$22 million for special education programs, and \$27 million for English Language Learner programs
- Increases K-12 funding by \$357 per student on average to a total of \$6,951.53
- Boosts higher education funding by \$120 million to keep tuition flat for Colorado students
- Invests an additional \$300 million in transportation
- Adds \$10 million General Fund for implementation of the Colorado Water Plan
- Adds \$1 million to help expand critical family planning services

BILLS TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AND PROTECT CONSUMERS

Equal Pay for Equal Work (SB19-085) - Reps. Buckner and Gonzales-Gutierrez**

After years of efforts, the legislature finally passed a law to help ensure people are paid equally for equal work. This bill expands our wage discrimination laws and requires greater transparency for Colorado workers in wages and promotions.

Retirement Security/Secure Savings Board (SB19-173) - Reps. Kraft-Tharp and Hansen

Our country is on the verge of a retirement crisis. This bill creates a Secure Savings Board to analyze and make recommendations on how to create a retirement savings plan that is available to private sector employees, so that all workers in Colorado have the tools to plan for a secure retirement.

Apprenticeships/Vocational Technical Training (SB19-171) - Reps. Sullivan and Galindo**

To help get hardworking people into good paying jobs, this bill establishes a statewide Apprenticeship Resource Directory with detailed information about apprenticeship programs in the state.

Open Internet Consumer Protections in Colorado (SB19-078) - Reps. Hansen and Herod

Protects a free and open Internet in Colorado by leveraging state dollars to ensure fair practices are used

** = *Passed with bipartisan support in the legislature*

by internet service providers. Disqualifies an ISP from receiving state grant money if they interfere with the open internet and gives a preference for state contracts to ISPs that respect net neutrality.

Penalties For Failure to Pay Wages (HB19-1267) - Reps. Singer and Froelich**

Previously, employers stealing or unfairly withholding wages from their employees or contractors faced such low penalties that the law was rarely enforced; employees lost over \$750 million a year due to wage theft. This new law makes withholding or stealing wages a criminal offense, increasing the penalties to help ensure that employees are paid for their work.

Family Medical Leave Insurance Program (SB19-188) - Reps. Gray and Duran

Over 90 percent of Coloradans don't have access to paid leave to care for a sick loved one or a newborn. This bill creates an outline and implementation schedule that lays the foundation for a strong, robust paid family leave policy for Colorado workers and businesses by 2024.

Local Government Minimum Wage (HB19-1210) - Reps. Melton and Galindo

This bill will allow local governments to adjust their minimum wage up to more effectively address the local cost of living, rather than have to adhere to a statewide standard in a state where local real estate markets and health care costs vary dramatically.

Child Care Expenses Tax Credit for Low Income Families (HB19-1013) - Rep. Exum**

Extends a state income tax credit for child care expenses through 2028 to help ease the childcare burden on nearly 32,000 hardworking families.

College Savings Accounts (HB19-1280) - Reps. Herod and Becker**

This bill helps parents to plan for their children's futures by encouraging them to open a college savings account and offers \$100 of seed money for college savings accounts opened within the first five years after a child is born or adopted in Colorado.

BILLS TO LOWER THE COST OF HEALTH CARE

State Innovation Waiver Reinsurance Program (HB19-1168) - Reps. McCluskie and Rich**

This bill will help reduce insurance premiums on the individual market by 15-30% by helping insurers with high-cost insurance claims, providing much-needed relief to hardworking Coloradans across the state, many of whom are paying up to a third of their income on monthly premiums. Our state, and in particular the Western Slope, has some of the highest health insurance costs in the country.

Hospital Transparency Measures (HB19-1001) - Rep. Kennedy**

The high cost of health care is harming Colorado consumers and businesses. This new law requires hospitals to report annually on uncompensated costs and categorical expenditures to help inform future policy decisions and get to the root causes of rising health care costs in the state.

Proposal and Pilot Program for Affordable Health Coverage Option (HB19-1004 and SB19-004) -**

Reps. Roberts, Catlin, McCluskie

HB19-1004 will start developing a publicly supported health insurance option to help put affordable

health insurance in reach for many hardworking families across our state. The public option can leverage the efficiencies of our current state infrastructure for greater savings, and will have a goal of becoming available for purchase by Coloradans as soon as the fall of 2020.

SB19-004 focuses on healthcare cooperatives, which aim to lower healthcare costs by encouraging consumers to negotiate rates on a collective basis directly with providers and offer plans to individuals, businesses, and other groups that are more affordable than what currently exists on the market. The bill will strengthen Colorado's laws to allow co-ops to incorporate consumer protections like coverage for preexisting conditions, and will allow the State Insurance Commissioner to work with groups seeking to create co-ops so that they can get up and running as soon as possible.

Limiting Out-of-Network Billing (HB19-1174) - Reps. Esgar and Catlin**

Establishes safeguards around out-of-network health care costs including limiting the amount that a consumer can be charged for out-of-network care. These charges can be more than 30 times the average in-network rate, and can be particularly devastating for consumers because they are often unexpected.

Reduce Insulin Costs (HB19-1216) - Rep. Roberts**

Requires insurance carriers to reduce the cost of insulin drugs for their consumers to no more than \$100 for a month's supply of insulin. Directs the Attorney General to investigate the pricing of prescription insulin drugs and report back to the legislature about whether additional consumer protections are needed for the over 420,000 Coloradans who have diabetes.

Recreate the Consumer Insurance Council (HB19-1150) - Rep. Titone**

Reestablishes the Consumer Insurance Council to ensure that consumers have a voice and an advocate in the regulation of the insurance industry in Colorado.

Prescription Drug Cost Education (HB19-1131) - Rep. Jaquez Lewis

Prescription drug costs are out of control and can be a major source of stress on Coloradans' household budgets. This bill increases transparency in drug pricing by requiring drug manufacturers and sellers to provide prescribers with more information about the actual costs of the drug.

Investments in Primary Care (HB19-1233) - Reps. Froelich and Caraveo**

The goal of primary care is to achieve better health outcomes by improving the quality and consistency of care so that both patients and the healthcare system overall can see a reduction in costs. This bill aims to increase the usage of primary care by starting a working collaborative group to identify reforms for primary care payment and establish affordability standards for premiums, including adding goals for carrier investments in primary care.

Hospital Community Benefit Accountability (HB19-1320) - Reps. Singer and Melton**

Nonprofit hospitals are given tax-exempt status with the understanding that they will reinvest money back into their communities, but not all hospitals are spending this money in a way that best benefits their community-identified health needs. This bill will increase transparency of hospital investments in community health to allow the state to compare this spending on an apples-to-apples basis and encourage more hospitals to invest in the things that count.

Dental Services for Pregnant Women (HB19-1038)** - *Reps. Duran and Lontine*

Healthy mothers mean healthy babies. This bill will now ensure that dental services are covered for pregnant women who are insured by CHP+.

Creation of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (HB19-1122)** - *Reps. Buckner and Landgraf*

Colorado's maternal mortality rate has doubled since 2008. This bill creates a maternal mortality review committee to study the causes of maternal deaths and postpartum deaths up to one year after birth, and to make recommendations for policies to help prevent these tragedies from occurring.

Import Prescription Drugs from Canada (SB19-005)** - *Rep. Jaquez Lewis*

To help lower the cost of prescription drugs, this bill requires the state to design and, if approved by the federal government, implement a program to import certain lower-cost prescription drugs from Canada for sale to Colorado consumers.

Licensing Freestanding ERs (HB19-1010)** - *Reps. Mullica and Landgraf*

Creates a new license for freestanding emergency rooms to improve the quality of care for patients and increase health care affordability.

BILLS THAT INVEST IN COLORADO'S FUTURE

Voter Approval to Retain Revenue For Education and Transportation (HB19-1257 and 1258)** -

Reps. Becker and McCluskie

Sends a question to the voters that will allow the state to retain all revenue collected in excess of the state TABOR limit and to invest this revenue in public education, higher education, and transportation projects.

Investment In Transportation (SB19-261, 262, 263)** - *Reps. Esgar, Gray, Hansen*

Coloradans are tired of the lack of investment in roads, bridges, and transit. House Democrats worked on creative and collaborative solutions to our transportation problems by passing three bills to help responsibly invest in the transportation needs of the state. These bills are a part of the bipartisan \$300 million agreement for transportation funding that House leadership secured in this session.

BILLS TO HELP STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND SCHOOLS

School Finance Act (SB19-246)** - *Rep. McLachlan and Wilson*

Lauded as the one of the best school finance acts in recent memory, this bill buys down the negative factor by \$100 million, increasing per pupil funding for Colorado students by \$357 per student on average; invests an additional \$20 million for rural schools, \$22 million for special education, and \$3 million for high school dropout intervention efforts.

Professional Development For School Principals (HB19-1002)** - *Reps. McLachlan and Wilson*

Creates a program to provide professional development for public elementary, middle, and high school principals. This bill will help address Colorado's teacher retention problem by ensuring school leaders have the skills and tools they need to run successful schools and support the educators that work there.

Shop Class Using BEST Funds (HB19-1008)** - Rep. Kraft-Tharp and Larson

Allows schools to apply for Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grants to build or upgrade Career and Technical Education facilities. This bill is intended to provide resources and opportunities for kids to help prepare them for careers in tech or trades.

Identification And Interventions For Dyslexia (HB19-1134)** - Reps. Buckner and Wilson

Convenes a working group to identify best practices and intervention techniques for Colorado educators to use when working with students with dyslexia, and to recommend dyslexia screening tools and techniques to better identify students with dyslexia.

School Discipline Reform (HB19-1194)** - Reps. Lontine and Larson

Puts more guardrails around the circumstances in which a school may suspend a child and limits most suspensions to 3 days. Students of color are disproportionately suspended from school compared to their white peers, so this bill will help improve equity and prevent kids from falling behind in school.

School Nurse Grant Programs (HB19-1203)** - Rep. Mullica

Creates a grant program to hire more school nurses in public schools, expanding the availability of school nurses and improving the health of our Colorado's young learners across the state.

Supplemental Academic Instruction (HB19-1206)** - Reps. Coleman and Larson

When students need additional training to prepare them for college-level courses, traditionally they have to take remedial courses before they can actually start courses that earn credit towards a degree. This can cause frustration and be a substantial financial burden, often leading to higher drop-out rates. This bill will move Colorado towards a newer model of "supplemental academic instruction" courses, which help get students up to speed while simultaneously earning them credit towards their degree, putting these students on a better path towards graduation.

Full Day Kindergarten (HB19-1262)** - Reps. McLachlan and Wilson

Helps ensure that Colorado youngest learners attending public schools have access to full day kindergarten at no cost to their parents, while also freeing up thousands of additional preschool slots. Free full-Day K starts in Fall 2019.

Student Loan Regulations (SB19-002)** - Reps. Roberts and Jackson

To help tackle Colorado's student debt crisis, this bill provides significant oversight over student loan lenders operating in Colorado and creates a student loan ombudsperson to provide timely assistance to student loan borrowers.

Combatting the Rural Educator Shortage (SB19-003 and SB19-009)** - Reps. McLachlan and Wilson

These two bills seek to address Colorado's educator shortage by incentivizing students to join the educator workforce, particularly in rural Colorado communities, through stipends and loan forgiveness.

Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education (HB19-1032)** - Reps. Lontine and Caraveo

Updates the content in the comprehensive sex education that many students in Colorado already receive to include consent, healthy relationships, and sexual orientation, and prohibit abstinence-only education.

Addressing Sexual Assault on College Campuses (SB19-007)** - *Reps. Buckner and McLachlan*
Addresses the issue of sexual misconduct on college campuses by requiring institutions of higher education to adopt comprehensive sexual misconduct prevention policies and guidelines for how to handle complaints effectively.

Investing in Special Education (SB19-066)** - *Rep. Buentello*
Creates the high-cost special education trust fund to invest in public schools that have made significant efforts to provide high quality instruction using best practices for children with disabilities.

Early Childhood Literacy (SB19-199)** - *Reps. McCluskie and Wilson*
Invests in evidence-based practices that will get Colorado kids reading at grade level and adopts policies to ensure that Colorado teachers are proficient in evidence-based literacy and reading training practices.

BILLS TO PROTECT CLEAN AIR & WATER AND ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change Action Plan (HB19-1261) - *Reps. Becker and Jackson*
Sets statewide goals within an established timeline to reduce carbon pollution and requires the Air Quality Control Commission to promulgate rules to do so. The AQCC will hold an extensive stakeholder process throughout the rulemaking period. This legislation makes Colorado a national leader in climate change legislation and is a bold step in mitigating the catastrophic risks of this threat.

Oil and Gas Reforms (SB19-181) - *Reps. Becker and Caraveo*
This landmark legislation updates Colorado's antiquated oil and gas laws and puts health and safety first. It gives local communities the authority to regulate oil and gas operations within their jurisdictions and improves protections for our air, water and wildlife. The bill also includes increased protections for forced pooling and orphaned wells and improves flow line mapping.

Funding for Wildfire Mitigation (HB19-1006)** - *Reps. McLachlan and Carver*
Provides grants to help fund wildfire prevention efforts in identified vulnerable areas to help keep Colorado's communities safe from these destructive natural disasters.

Protecting Colorado's Firefighters and Water Sources (HB19-1279)** - *Reps. Exum and Landgraf*
Prohibits the usage of certain harmful and poisonous chemicals in firefighting foam in Colorado to ensure our firefighters are kept safe from harmful chemicals our water sources are protected from these dangerous chemicals.

Protect Water Quality Adverse Mining Impacts (HB19-1113)** - *Reps. Roberts and McLachlan*
This bill makes mining operators more accountable for preventing water contamination by requiring them to have a plan in place for new or amended mining permits that will ensure compliance with water quality standards and protect more than 1,600 miles of Colorado rivers and streams.

Clean Indoor Air Act (HB19-1076)** - *Reps. Michaelson Jenet and Larson*
Updates the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act to include electronic smoking devices and repeal certain exceptions, helping our clean air laws cover new technologies and crack down on harmful vaping.

Community Solar Garden Expansion (HB19-1003)** - *Reps. Hansen and A. Valdez*

Expands access to low-cost renewable energy by removing restrictions and caps on Colorado's community solar garden industry.

Collect Long-term Climate Change Data (SB19-096)** - *Rep. Hansen*

Colorado's way of life is threatened by climate change and we need a data-driven approach to protect it. This bill directs the Air Quality Control Commission to collect data from greenhouse gas-emitting entities into a report, forecast future emissions, and propose solutions to help address the issue.

BILLS TO SUPPORT OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT, FAIR CAMPAIGNS, AND ACCESS TO THE BALLOT

Colorado Votes Act (HB19-1278) - *Rep. Lontine*

This bill continues to move Colorado forward on making voting accessible to all eligible Coloradans. Increases access to the ballot and minimizes long lines on Election Day by updating the formula for drop-boxes and Voter Service and Polling Centers; allowing 17-year-olds to vote in primaries if they will turn 18 and be eligible to vote in the general election; and making other cleanup changes to election law.

The Clean Campaign Act of 2019 (HB19-1318)** - *Rep. Weissman*

This bill will help bring more transparency and accountability into our elections so voters know who is spending money to influence their votes. Increases disclosure requirements for political spending by dark money groups in our elections, closes loopholes that allowed foreign money in Colorado elections, expands "paid for by" statements to improve transparency, and tightens coordination laws.

Lobbyist Transparency Act (HB19-1248)** - *Reps. Weissman and Cutter*

Improves transparency of lobbying activities at our state legislature by requiring lobbyists to report more frequently on their clients and bills they're lobbying, as well as closing various loopholes on transparency.

Management of Legislative Workplace Conduct (SB19-244)** - *Rep. Lontine*

Creates the Office of Legislative Workplace Relations at the legislature to receive and manage HR and workplace harassment issues, and creates a bipartisan committee to oversee complaints and help ensure accountability. Improves victim confidentiality and processes for handling formal or informal complaints.

Campaign Finance Enforcement (SB19-232)** - *Rep. Weissman*

This bill will help ensure stronger enforcement of Colorado's campaign finance laws and give voters more confidence that the system works for them - not special interests and mystery money groups.

Census Outreach Program (HB19-1239)** - *Reps. Tipper and Caraveo*

Having valid census data is critical to ensuring Coloradans are fairly represented in Congress and is tied to billions of dollars of federal funding for our state. This bill awards grants to local governments and nonprofits to do community outreach to help ensure a complete count of Coloradans for the 2020 census.

Automatic Voter Registration (SB19-235) - *Reps. Esgar and Mullica*

Improves access to the ballot and expands the ability to participate in our democracy by implementing

automatic voter registration for eligible Coloradans who visit the DMV, and eventually Medicaid applicants. The bill includes opportunities for these individuals to opt out if they so choose.

Expand Disclosure Electioneering Communications (SB19-068)** - *Reps. Weissman and Cutter*

This bill will provide additional transparency in election communications by closing a loophole that allowed for unreported mass communications between primary and general elections and requiring anyone spending \$1,000+ per year on these communications to tell voters plainly who they are.

Restore Voting Rights of Parolees (HB19-1266)** - *Rep. Herod*

This bill will allow former offenders to participate in our democracy by restoring their ability to vote when they are released on parole.

BILLS TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND IMPROVE RENTERS' RIGHTS

Expanding Colorado's Affordable Housing Supply (HB19-1322)** - *Reps. Roberts and Will*

One of the largest investments in affordable housing Colorado has made in recent memory, this bill requires a transfer of up to \$30 million per year for three years from excess reserves in the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund to the Housing Development Grant Fund.

Affordable Housing Tax Credit Expansion (HB19-1228)** - *Reps. Bird and Titone*

This bill focuses on addressing the lack of affordable housing in our state in two ways: by doubling the tax credits available to incentivize the development of more affordable housing units, and by helping hopeful first-time homebuyers afford to buy a home through down payment assistance grants.

Rental Application Protections (HB19-1106)** - *Reps. Titone and Gonzales-Gutierrez*

Creates common-sense protections for prospective tenants during the rental application process. Landlords may now only charge an application fee to cover the administrative costs of running tenant screening reports and are limited in reasons they can deny a prospective tenant's application.

Warranty of Habitability (HB19-1170)** - *Reps. Jackson and Weissman*

Increases the protections under Colorado's warranty of habitability law to ensure renters live in safe homes and that landlords can be held accountable by allowing tenants to withhold rent when a landlord refuses to fix an issue that makes it unsafe or uninhabitable.

Affordable Housing Funding from Vendor Fee Modifications (HB19-1245)** - *Rep. Weissman*

This bill invests in affordable housing by changing a tax rebate for businesses in Colorado, tailoring it to better help 98% of Colorado businesses, and putting savings from capping the benefit for the very largest businesses towards efforts to ease the housing crunch for hardworking Colorado families.

Improved Protections for Mobile Home Owners (HB19-1309)** - *Reps. Hooton and McCluskie*

Expands county authority to regulate mobile home parks to improve the safety and well-being of mobile home park tenants and extend the time a mobile homeowner has to sell or relocate their home following an eviction. The bill also establishes a statewide alternative dispute resolution program that both park owners and residents can use to resolve disputes. There are more than 900 mobile parks in Colorado.

Time Period to Cure Before Evictions (HB19-1118) - Reps. Jackson and Galindo**

Extends the time a tenant has to remedy a minor lease violation or pay unpaid rent before an eviction may be filed, to give tenants a chance to prevent unnecessary evictions and help prevent homelessness.

Eviction Legal Defense Fund (SB19-180) - Rep. McCluskie**

Sets up a grant program to assist low-income tenants who have an eviction proceeding filed against them navigate the legal process. Evictions are a leading cause of family homelessness and can often trigger a job loss or a decline in physical and mental health.

Enhancements to Colorado's Property Tax and Heat Grant Program (HB19-1085) - Rep. Exum**

Enhances the benefits of Colorado's property tax, heat and rent rebate program to help low-income seniors and Coloradans with disabilities mitigate the costs associated with Colorado's affordable housing crisis. This program can help keep people safe and potentially save a life when temperatures plummet.

BILLS TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Mental Health Parity Insurance Medicaid (HB19-1269) - Reps. Cutter and Sullivan**

Considered one of the most significant and impactful pieces of legislation to address Colorado's mental health care crisis, this bill holds insurers accountable to current state and federal parity laws that require treating mental health and addiction equal to physical health care. This will encourage patient use of mental health services and boost screening for mental health disorders in other areas of care.

Professional Behavioral Health Services for Schools (SB19-010) - Reps. McLachlan and D. Valdez**

Expands a program that places health professionals in schools for substance abuse prevention purposes to also allow grant funding to be used for behavioral health services including mental health disorders.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (HB19-1177) - Reps. Garnett and Sullivan

Gives family members and law enforcement a tool to petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from someone who is a significant risk to themselves or others. The bill is named after Douglas County Deputy Sheriff Zackari Parrish, who was killed in the line of duty while responding to a call. ERPOs save lives by creating a way to act before warning signs escalate into tragedies.

K-5 Students Social And Emotional Health Act (HB19-1017) - Rep. Michaelson Jenet**

Creates a pilot program to place social workers in more schools to ensure Colorado children who may need support or intervention services have access to the resources they need.

Youth Mental Health Education and Suicide Prevention (HB19-1120) - Reps. Michaelson Jenet and Roberts**

Helps prevent suicide and increase youth access to mental health resources by lowering the age of consent to access confidential and non-medical mental health resources like counseling to 12 years old. The bill also creates a mental health resource library available to the public.

BILLS TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Prevention of Substance Use Disorders (SB19-228) - Reprs. Buentello and Singer**

Establishes several measures to prevent substance use disorders, including requiring warning labels on prescriptions, prohibiting physicians from accepting benefits for prescribing specific medications, and creating a pilot program for on-the-ground intervention and screening resources for families and mothers.

Treatment for Substance Use Disorders (HB19-1287) - Reprs. Esgar and Wilson**

Breaks down barriers for substance use treatment and recovery by creating a statewide system to identify available treatment beds, creating a care navigation program to assist individuals accessing these services, and developing a grant program for underserved communities to boost access to these services.

Recovery for Substance Use Disorders (HB19-1009) - Reprs. Kennedy and Singer**

Expands housing for vulnerable Coloradans who are recovering from a substance use disorder by expanding the housing assistance voucher program. This will allow individuals with substance use disorders who are transitioning out of mental health institutes, or who are in unstable housing environments and are transitioning out of residential treatment programs, to be eligible for these vouchers.

Harm Reduction Substance Use Disorders (SB19-227) - Reprs. Kennedy and Herod**

Creates and expands substance use disorder treatment programs across the state; expands access to opioid antagonists in schools and wherever automated external defibrillators are available in order to combat overdoses; specifies that certain hospitals may be used as clean syringe exchange sites; and expands the household medication take-back program to help people safely dispose of extra medications.

Treatment of Substance Use Disorders in Criminal Justice System (SB19-008) - Reprs. Kennedy and Singer**

Requires expanded access to medication-assisted treatment in jails and prisons and also creates a harm reduction grant program to help mitigate public health risks from substance use disorders.

Expand Medication-assisted Treatment Pilot Program (SB19-001) - Rep. Buentello**

Extends the Medication-Assisted Treatment Pilot Program for an additional two years, increases program funding, expands the list of eligible participants, and expands it from only Pueblo and Routt counties to additional counties in the San Luis Valley.

Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (SB19-079) - Reprs. Esgar and Landgraf**

Requires certain highly addictive scheduled drugs to be prescribed using electronic methods to protect against fraudulent prescriptions and encourage responsible prescribing practices.

BILLS TO REFORM COLORADO'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Ban the Box (HB19-1025) - Reprs. Melton and Herod**

This bill prevents employers from asking about criminal history on an initial job application, but allows them to inquire at any other stage of the hiring process. This gives applicants a chance to demonstrate

their qualifications for a position based on their merit and skill and to tell their own story during an interview, rather than being immediately passed over because they checked “the box.”

Enhanced Victim Notifications (HB19-1064)** - *Reps. Sullivan and Baisley*

Helps ensure that victims of a crime are able to get notifications of criminal proceedings by changing the opt-in requirement to opt-out.

Free Menstrual Hygiene Products In Custody (HB19-1224)** - *Rep. Herod*

Requires correctional facilities and jails to provide free menstrual hygiene products at no cost to the person in custody. Each woman’s body is different and we must ensure the state is treating all women, including those that are in custody, with the respect and dignity that they deserve.

No Monetary Bail For Low-Level Offenses (HB19-1225)** - *Reps. Herod and Soper*

Prior to this new law, people who committed minor offenses were often kept in jail simply because they couldn’t afford to pay bail. This law helps avoid unnecessary pretrial detention by eliminating cash bail for petty & traffic offenses such as having an open container or shoplifting less than \$50 worth of goods.

Bond Reform (HB19-1226)** - *Reps. Herod and Soper*

This bill moves Colorado towards a fairer and more equitable criminal justice system by making changes to our bail, bond, and pretrial services systems to better serve the community and the rights of defendants.

Increased Eligibility For Record Sealing (HB19-1275)** - *Reps. Weissman and Soper*

This bill will help broaden access to record sealing for lower level offenses, allowing more people to successfully maintain housing and employment and help them move on from their past mistakes after they have served their sentences. The bill streamlines record sealing processes, expands eligibility, and gives victims and prosecutors the opportunity to give input to the judge when deciding on sealings.

Juvenile Justice Reform (SB19-108)** - *Reps. Michaelson Jenet and Soper*

Research shows diverting low-risk youth into community options like restorative justice rather than incarceration is more effective for rehabilitation and overall public safety. This bill expands opportunities for diversion by using validated risk and needs assessments in diversion decisions for juvenile offenders.

Parole Changes (SB19-143)** - *Rep. Herod*

This bill will allow the Department of Corrections to better manage their population when the vacancy rate falls below 3%. It will better align parole board decision making with the parole release guidelines for people who have been assessed to be less than high risk, reduce parole revocations for technical violations, and make it easier for individuals to access reentry services after release.

Protections For Minor Trafficking Victims (SB19-185)** - *Reps. Roberts and Landgraf*

This bill will increase protections for minors who are victims of sex trafficking by granting immunity from criminal prosecution, ensuring that the law treats them as victims rather than as criminals.

Prompt Pretrial Liberty And Fairness (SB19-191)** - *Reps. Herod and Gonzales-Gutierrez*

Creates additional rights for defendants related to their ability to release from jail on bond. Previously,

defendants sometimes sat multiple days in jail before a judge set their bond or before they could be released once bond was set. This bill tasks the judicial districts to set tighter timelines for these hearings, sets firm deadlines for a defendant to be able to post bond and be released, and limits bond-related fees.

Peace Officer Mental Health Support Program (HB19-1244)** - *Reps. Coleman and Carver*

Expands the Peace Officers Mental Health Support Grant Program to increase access to training and prevention programs related to mental trauma; peer support programs; and counseling services.

BILLS TO PROTECT COLORADANS' RIGHTS

Prohibit Conversion Therapy for a Minor (HB19-1129)** - *Reps. Michaelson Jenet and Esgar*

This bill protects LGBTQ youth in Colorado from the dangerous and discredited practice of “conversion therapy” aimed at changing their sexual orientation or gender identity, which has been shown to increase risks of drug or alcohol abuse, depression, and even suicide. This is the fifth time the bill has been brought forward and Colorado will finally join over 16 other states in banning this dangerous practice.

Protecting Against Federal Immigration Overreach (HB19-1124) - *Reps. Benavidez and Lontine*

This bill helps limit federal overreach and protect the constitutional rights of all people in Colorado by codifying existing court rulings limiting local law enforcement from enforcing federal immigration laws without a judicial warrant and ensuring that immigrants are advised of their rights.

Identity Documents For Transgender Persons (HB19-1039)** - *Rep. Esgar*

The bill will cut through the red tape for transgender and non-binary Coloradans to have access to identity documents that reflect their authentic selves. Not having updated ID documents interferes with the ability of transgender Coloradans to live their lives openly and honestly.

BILLS TO HELP RURAL COLORADO AND GENERATE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Just Transition From Coal Energy Economy (HB19-1314)** - *Reps. Becker and Galindo*

As the market makes a transition to renewable energy, it must also make critical investments in the workers and communities whose jobs and livelihoods are impacted as a result of this shift in the energy economy. The bill creates the Just Transition Office which is tasked with drafting and submitting a plan by December 31, 2020 to the Governor to support coal-transition workers and communities.

Colorado Food in School Lunches (HB19-1132)** - *Reps. Buentello and Pelton*

Helps ensure healthy school meals for Colorado kids while also helping Colorado’s farmers and ranchers by encouraging the use of Colorado agricultural products in school meal programs.

Colorado Resiliency Office (HB19-1292)** - *Reps. Singer and Galindo*

Over five years ago, Lyons, Evans, Greeley and other areas of Northern Colorado were hit hard by floods that damaged homes, destroyed two parks and left eight dead. This bill reauthorizes and funds the Colorado Resiliency Office, which helps direct long-term rebuilding and community recovery efforts in the immediate aftermath of a disaster such as a flood or a wildfire.

Severance Tax Operational Fund (SB19-016) - Reprs. Esgar and Saine**

A portion of severance tax revenue goes to fund core water- and agriculture-related programs and spur clean and renewable energy development in our state. This bill changes the timing for when these programs are funded to provide greater stability and allow these critical programs to flourish.

Income Tax Credit For Health Care Preceptors (HB19-1088) - Reprs. D. Valdez and Buck**

This bill helps address the shortage of healthcare providers in rural areas by encouraging licensed health care professionals to serve as “preceptors” - offering personalized instruction, training, and supervision to students pursuing a medical degree in rural or frontier areas of the state experiencing a provider shortage.

Broadband Infrastructure Installation (SB19-107) - Rep. Roberts**

This bill will expand the broadband infrastructure in Colorado, especially in rural areas, by allowing electrical easement holders to deliver internet services to communities through already-existing transmission corridors. Broadband services are inadequate and even nonexistent in many parts of the state; improving broadband infrastructure will help expand opportunity in communities across Colorado.

Winter Conditions and Traction Control Requirements (HB19-1207) - Rep. Roberts**

Many drivers are not prepared for the winter driving conditions on I-70 and that leads to crashes, spin-outs, and closures along the mountain corridor. Closures on I-70 have dramatic impacts to traffic and the economy on the Western Slope and across Colorado. This bill will help fix that problem by setting clear standards for winter traction equipment requirements in particular areas of the state.

TERRIBLE GOP BILLS THAT DEMOCRATS PREVENTED FROM BECOMING LAW

Freedom To Discriminate Law (HB19-1140)

Would have allowed discrimination by preventing the state from taking any action against a religious organization or individual for denying services to others due to sexual orientation or gender identity.

Repeal Ammunition Magazine Prohibition (HB19-1021)

Would have repealed the law that prohibits the sale, transfer or possession of high capacity magazines, moving our state backwards on the progress it has made in protecting Coloradans from gun violence.

Deadly Force Against Intruder at a Business (HB19-1022)

This dangerous bill would give business owners and employees total immunity from criminal prosecution or civil liability for using deadly force against someone making an unlawful entry into the business.

Vouchers to Use Public Dollars for Private Education

Democrats fought back multiple irresponsible voucher bills to take public dollars away from public schools and to tuition expenses for private or religious schools.

Criminalizing Abortions (HB19-1103)

Yet another dangerous personhood effort, the bill would have prohibited the termination of a pregnancy and made it a felony to perform one. This is yet another attempt to limit a woman’s right to choose and interfere in decisions that should be made between a woman and her doctor.