

COLORADO HOUSE DEMOCRATS

2023 End of Session Report



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Increasing Access to Behavioral Health

[HB23-1003: School Mental Health Assessments](#), by Representative Michaelson Jenet & Senator Cutter

In Colorado, 40% of middle and high school students reported feeling depressed in 2020, and suicide is the leading cause of death youth ages 10 to 18. This bill allows public schools to offer mental health screenings for sixth through twelfth graders and connect them to mental health resources. Students in need of support are eligible for six free therapy sessions through the I Matter program established in [HB21-1258](#).

[SB23-004: Employment Of School Mental Health Professionals](#), by Senators Marchman and Jaquez Lewis & Representatives Michaelson Jenet and Young

Current law requires a mental health professional to be licensed by the Colorado Department of Education in order to work in a school, creating a barrier for schools to hire enough professionally-licensed therapists. This bill streamlines that hiring process to increase students' access to mental health resources.

[^][HB23-1153: Pathways To Behavioral Health Care](#), by Representatives Amabile and Armagost & Senators Pelton and Rodriguez

Many Coloradans with serious mental illness end up in our hospitals, jails or without a place to live because they lack access to services. This bill advances a study to explore how the state might establish a system that helps Coloradans with serious mental illness access behavioral health care, housing, and community-based services.

[^][SB23-174: Access To Certain Behavioral Health Services](#), by Senators Kolker and Gardner & Representatives Lukens and Winter

The type of health insurance coverage young Coloradans have shouldn't determine if they can access behavioral health care. This bill requires coverage for multiple types of therapy, prevention, education services, case management, and treatment planning services for Medicaid recipients who are under the age of 21.

[^][HB23-1071: Licensed Psychologist Prescriptive Authority](#), by Representatives Amabile and Bradfield & President Fenberg and Senator Simpson

Coloradans often struggle to find an available psychiatrist within their insurance network, forcing them to choose between large out-of-pocket costs or waiting months to be prescribed life-saving medication. This bill establishes rigorous standards and education requirements to allow qualified licensed psychologists limited prescribing authority for mental health medications, saving patients time and money and streamlining access to care across the state.

Promoting Economic Security, Creating Jobs and Boosting Colorado's Workforce

[HB23-1112: Earned Income And Child Tax Credits](#), by Representatives Bird and Young & Senators Hansen and Kolker

The federal Child Tax Credit (CTC) has lifted over 57,000 Colorado kids out of poverty, while the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has helped cut the national poverty rate in half. Building on Democrats' work to expand these tax credits in 2020 and 2021, this bill establishes a fixed credit of up to \$1,200 for the Colorado CTC and expands the Colorado EITC by 13% for tax year 2024, returning over \$170 million more to hardworking families and helping ensure our tax code works for all Coloradans.

[^][HB23-1246: Zero-Cost Credentials](#), by Speaker McCluskie and Representative Pugliese & Senators Buckner and Will

Zero-cost credentials save Coloradans money and help meet our state's workforce needs by breaking down financial barriers for aspiring professionals to enter new, high-demand careers. This bill invests \$45 million over the span of two years and paves the way for Coloradans to receive zero-cost training toward associate degrees and industry certificates in critical fields like early childhood education, elementary education, firefighting, law enforcement, nursing and construction.

[HB23-1008: Closing Tax Loopholes To Promote Food Accessibility](#), by Representative Weissman & Senators Fields and Hinrichsen

This bill closes a tax loophole used by big businesses to deduct meal and drink expenses from their taxable income, instead creating a refundable income tax credit for small food businesses and local farms. Ending the tax loophole also enables the state to invest \$250,000 per year to incentivize healthy eating.

[^][SB23-087: Teacher Apprenticeship Program](#), by Senators Marchman and Baisley & Representatives Kipp and Wilson

Colorado's teacher shortage crisis is affecting every school district in the state. This bill creates an apprenticeship program with structured on-the-job training in order to get more qualified, licensed teachers in classrooms faster.

[^][SB23-007: Adult Education](#), by Senators Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer & Representatives Kipp and Catlin

This bill invests \$2 million to support thousands of diverse adult learners build digital skills and get the high school education they need to earn a strong wage.

[HB23-1212: Promotion Of Apprenticeships](#), by Representatives Hamrick and Lieder & Senators Kolker and Danielson

Colorado's trade and construction industries are still experiencing workforce shortages following economic disruptions from the pandemic. This bill makes it easier for graduating high school students to search for, apply to and participate in apprenticeship programs that will lead to good-paying careers in high-demand industries.

[SB23-058: Job Application Fairness Act](#), by Senators Danielson and Jaquez Lewis & Representatives Willford and Young

Many older adults refrain from switching careers because they're worried workplace discrimination will prevent them from finding a new one. The Job Application Fairness Act prohibits the use of age identifying information, like birth dates and graduation dates, on initial job applications, tackling workplace age discrimination in hiring practices and expanding job opportunities for qualified Colorado workers.

[HB23-1006: Employer Notice Of Income Tax Credits](#), by Representatives Young and Daugherty & Senator Exum

The federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit (CTC), and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) offer Colorado households thousands of dollars in financial support each year but often go unclaimed. This bill requires employers to provide information about federal and state earned income tax credits and child tax credits to their employees, spreading awareness to Colorado families that qualify for these tax credits to save them thousands of dollars.

[^HB23-1260: Advanced Industry And Semiconductor Manufacturing Incentives](#), by Representatives Valdez and Soper & Senators Priola and Baisley

This bill strengthens tax incentives for semiconductor and advanced manufacturing so that Colorado can draw down upwards of \$5.5 billion in federal funding for leading-edge manufacturing and create good-paying jobs in an in-demand industry.

[^SB23-066: Advanced Industry Acceleration Programs](#), by Senators Hansen and Simpson & Representative Bird and Minority Leader Lynch

Colorado's advanced industries, including advanced manufacturing, aerospace, bioscience, and electronics, play a vital role in our state's economic growth and stability. This bill reauthorizes the Advanced Industries Accelerator Grant Program for 10 more years, ensuring Colorado's innovation industries remain competitive on a national scale. Since the grant program's creation in 2013, the state has awarded 714 grants, supporting the creation of 124 new companies and thousands of jobs.

[^HB23-1081: Employee Ownership Tax Credit Expansion](#), by Representatives Lindstedt and Taggart & Senator Hinrichsen

In 2021, Colorado Democrats created a first-in-the-nation refundable income tax credit that incentivizes employee-owned business models. This bill expands the Employee Ownership Tax Credit, making it easier for eligible businesses to transition to employee ownership and allowing local businesses to stay within the community and in trusted hands: a win for employees, businesses, and communities.

[^HB23-1158: Colorado Commodity Supplemental Food Grant Program](#), by Representatives Willford and Taggart & Senator Mullica

This bipartisan bill invests \$1 million in grants to local food banks and food distribution programs, so they can create and deliver nutritious food packages to thousands of low-income older adults below the poverty line.

[^SB23-143: Retail Delivery Fees](#), by President Fenberg and Senator Van Winkle & Representatives Kipp and Soper

Established by SB21-260, the retail delivery fee (RDF) is a 27-cent fee imposed on all deliveries in order to fund critical transportation projects, improve our roads, and reduce time and money spent sitting in traffic. This bill modifies the RDF to exempt small businesses that have \$500,000 or less in retail sales and minimal impact on our roads, and allows businesses to pay the fee on behalf of their customers.

[^HB23-1091: Child Care Contribution Tax Credit](#), by Representatives Kipp and Pugliese & Senators Marchman and Rich

Having access to quality child care sets children up for success later in life and helps parents get back to work. This bill extends a tax credit to incentivize charitable donations to child care providers and training programs.

Preparing Students for Success

[^SB23-287: School Finance Act](#), by Senator Zenzinger and Minority Leader Lundeen & Representatives McLachlan and Kipp

The largest commitment to public education in Colorado history, this year's School Finance Act raises the statewide average of per pupil funding to \$10,614, reduces the Budget Stabilization Factor by \$180 million, invests \$30 million into rural schools, and commits lawmakers to fully fund public schools in the 2024-2025 school year. This additional funding can be used by districts to reduce class sizes, increase teacher pay, and ensure students have what they need to thrive.

[HB23-1001: Educator Stipends And Loan Forgiveness](#), by Representatives Kipp and McLachlan & Senator Zenzinger

After investing \$52 million in federal funds last year to recruit and retain Colorado teachers, this bill expands the pool of educators who can take advantage of these loan forgiveness programs and student educator stipends.

[HB23-1064: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact](#), by Representatives Lukens and Young & Senators Marchman and Kolker

To attract high-quality teachers to our classrooms and reduce barriers to entering the educator workforce, this bill establishes the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, which creates an agreement between Colorado and ten other states to allow licensed teachers to easily transfer a teacher's license.

[^][HB23-1231: Boosting Math Achievement](#), by Representatives McLachlan and Pugliese & Senators Marchman and Minority Leader Lundeen

In an effort to boost students' math performance, this legislation invests \$24.5 million to incorporate evidence-informed curriculum and intervention strategies into schools, after-school programs, and educator training.

[^][SB23-205: Universal High School Scholarships](#), by Senator Bridges and Minority Leader Lundeen & Representatives Martinez and Wilson

The shortage of trained workers in Colorado leaves thousands of job openings across the state unfilled. This bill provides 15,000 graduating students with a scholarship up to \$1,500 for any approved training provider in Colorado, including apprenticeships and on-the-job training, trade school, community colleges, colleges and universities.

[^][SB23-099: Special Education Funding](#), by Senators Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer & Representatives Kipp and Frizell

In addition to statewide per pupil funding, this bold \$40 million investment in special education will lower student-teacher ratios, reduce class sizes and help provide more tailored educational assistance to students so they can thrive.

[HB23-1263: Translating Individualized Education Programs](#), by Representatives Garcia and Young & Senators Zenzinger and Gonzales

Drafts of individualized learning plans for special education students are typically only provided in English, making it difficult for families that do not speak English at home to understand the details of their child's learning plan. This bill requires that plans be translated to the primary language spoken at the students' home.

[^][SB23-241: Creation Of Office Of School Safety](#), by Senators Bridges and Kirkmeyer & Representatives Bird and Bockenfeld

To help keep students safe, this bill creates the Office of School Safety to administer grants to schools, assist with school emergency response planning and training, and implement co-responder programs to prevent violence in schools across the state.

[^SB23-269: Preschool Provider Bonus Payments](#), by Senators Buckner and Rich & Representatives Lukens and Bradfield

Last year, lawmakers created Colorado's Universal Preschool Program to provide free part-time preschool for every four-year-old in Colorado starting in 2023. This bill provides one-time bonus payments for participating providers to implement the program, or to maintain or expand care capacity for infants and toddlers.

[HB23-1290: Preschool Funding](#), by Speaker McCluskie and Representative Sirota & Majority Leader Moreno and Senator Fields

In 2020, Colorado voters overwhelmingly supported Proposition EE, which provided funding for the new Universal Preschool Program using revenues from a new tax on nicotine products. This bill refers a ballot question to confirm voters' commitment to universal preschool by using additional revenues that came in higher than expected.

Advancing Clean Energy and Improving Air Quality

[HB23-1272: Tax Incentives For Decarbonization](#), by Representatives Weissman and Joseph & President Fenberg and Senator Cutter

Clean energy tax credits bring down the costs of clean energy technology adoption, saving Coloradans money with approximately \$60 million in annual tax credits and exemptions to consumers and businesses for decarbonization investments. The legislation includes incentives for geothermal electricity and high-efficiency heat pumps, efforts to reduce pollution from industrial facilities, and tax credits for electric vehicles and electric bikes.

[SB23-016: Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction](#), by Senator Hansen & Representatives McCormick and Sirota

To reach Colorado's climate goals and improve our air quality, this bill establishes new statewide greenhouse gas emissions targets, prioritizes upgrades to the state's electric transmission infrastructure system and studies transmission capacity to pave the way for electrification across the state. Other provisions will save Coloradans money on electric lawn equipment and encourage climate-aware financial investing.

[HB23-1005: Energy Improvement Projects](#), by Representatives Willford and Titone & Senators Jaquez Lewis and Marchman

Since 2016, the state has financed 116 water conservation and energy improvement projects totaling almost \$250 million in eco-friendly investments. This bill expands

project eligibility and streamlines financing so more commercial properties can take advantage of eco-friendly property upgrades.

[HB23-1210: Carbon Management](#), by Representative Dickson & Senators Hansen and Priola

To reduce the amount of carbon in our atmosphere, this bill directs the development of a carbon management roadmap and ensures projects within sectors of the economy that are hardest to decarbonize are eligible for existing grant funding to better attract investment in these technologies.

[HB23-1101: Ozone Season Transit Grant Program](#), by Representatives Vigil and Bacon & Senators Winter and Hinrichsen

Last year, Democrats allocated \$28 million toward [free transit during ozone season](#) to improve air quality. This builds on that investment for the next three years, cutting down on the number of cars on the road and saving Coloradans money on transit.

[HB23-1161](#) and [HB23-1134: Environmental Standards And Warranties For Appliances](#), by Representatives Kipp, Joseph and Willford & Senators Cutter and Winter

By updating standards and increasing access to more efficient appliances, these bills conserve energy and improve indoor air quality in our homes through phasing out inefficient, mercury-containing light bulbs and ensuring appliance warranties allow consumers to switch from gas to electric appliances.

[HB23-1233: Access to Electric Vehicle Charging And Parking](#), by Representatives Mauro and Valdez & Senators Priola and Winter

Removing barriers to clean transportation and addressing negative environmental impacts helps our state in the fight against climate change. This bill makes electric vehicles more accessible by expanding charging options for multi-family housing and providing tax relief to Coloradans who install EV charging stations.

[^][HB23-1234: Streamlining Solar Permitting](#), by Representatives Brown and Soper & Senators Roberts and Will

This bill makes it faster, easier and less expensive for local governments to approve solar installation projects. It establishes a grant program to assist with the start-up costs associated with permitting and inspection software in order to reduce costs for consumers and accelerate Colorado's transition to clean energy.

[HB23-1252: Thermal Energy As A Clean Heat Resource](#), by Representatives Lieder and Kipp & Senators Exum and Hansen

Continuing Colorado's work to reduce emissions from gas utilities, this bill promotes wider adoption of thermal energy as a clean heat resource and expands opportunities for grant funding for geothermal projects which will create new jobs and save Coloradans money on their utility bills.

[HB23-1294: Pollution Protection Measures](#), by Representatives Bacon and Willford & Senators Winter and Gonzales

Ground level ozone is dangerous for our children and our neighbors to breathe, often leading to significant health issues. This bill works to protect Coloradans from air pollution by giving impacted communities a voice in the emissions permitting and enforcement process, setting clear timelines for complaint response and resolution, and creating a Legislative Interim Committee on Ozone Air Quality to investigate the factors contributing to ozone pollution and identify policy solutions.

[HB23-1216: Natural Gas Pipeline Safety](#), by Representatives Story and Froelich & Senator Danielson

Ensuring the safe and reliable delivery of energy to Coloradans' homes is critical. This bill protects natural gas customers and ensures Colorado's pipelines pass high safety standards with regular inspections and communication between gas utilities and homeowners so that all parties know who is responsible for pipeline maintenance.

Saving People Money on Health Care and Prescription Drugs

[HB23-1224: Standardized Health Benefit Plan](#), by Representatives Brown and Jodeh & Senator Roberts

Colorado has led the way in lowering costs of health care and increasing access to affordable, quality care by creating the Colorado Option. This bill builds on that by lowering insurance premiums, ensuring administrative costs are not passed down to consumers, and making it easier to shop for high value standardized health plans.

[HB23-1002: Epinephrine Auto-injectors](#), by Representatives Mabrey and Jodeh & Senator Roberts

No Coloradan should have to choose between life-saving medication and basic needs. EpiPen consumers can pay nearly \$700 for a 2-pack despite it only costing \$8 for the manufacturer to produce. This bill caps the out-of-pocket cost to \$60 for a 2-pack of epinephrine auto-injectors and ensures Coloradans with a prescription can apply online to obtain them, no matter what their insurance status is.

[HB23-1130: Drug Coverage For Serious Mental Illness](#), by Representative Michaelson Jenet & Senators Rodriguez and Kolker

This bill prohibits state-regulated insurance plans from requiring step therapy, a method that requires patients to try alternative drugs before the insurance company can cover the originally prescribed medication, for certain mental health conditions. If certain criteria is not met, step therapy is limited to one alternative drug.

[HB23-1183: Prior Authorization For Step-Therapy Exception](#), by Representatives Jodeh and Sirota & Senator Winter

This bill exempts patients with serious or complex medical conditions from step therapy requirements if it would likely cause negative side effects, the alternative drug is unlikely to be effective, or if the patient is already using an effective drug.

[^][HB23-1201: Prescription Drug Benefits](#), Representatives Daugherty and Soper & Senators Mullica and Smallwood

Currently Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PMBs) can charge employers one price, but reimburse pharmacies less and keep the difference. This bill saves employers money on healthcare by making it an unfair business practice for PBMs to charge employers more for a drug than what they pay pharmacies for the same drug.

[^][HB23-1227: Enforce Laws Against Pharmacy Benefit Managers](#), by Representatives Jodeh and Ortiz & Senators Jaquez Lewis and Will

This bill increases oversight and transparency over Pharmacy Benefit Managers to save Coloradans money on prescription costs. It will provide the Division of Insurance with more direct oversight over PBMs by requiring them to register and ensuring compliance with consumer protections.

[HB23-1225: Prescription Drug Affordability Board](#), by Representatives deGruy Kennedy and Dickson & Senators Jaquez Lewis and Buckner

In 2021, lawmakers created the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to limit the cost of the highest cost prescription drugs. This bill strengthens the Board by removing restrictions on how many Upper Payment Limits the Board can set in its first three years, and improving the criteria for selecting drugs for an affordability review.

[^][HB23-1226: Hospital Transparency](#), by Representatives deGruy Kennedy and Soper & Senators Roberts and Will

This bill sheds light on the underlying drivers of high hospital costs by building on existing hospital financial transparency reporting to address gaps, increase compliance, and provide data to understand the financial health and performance of Colorado's hospitals.

[HB23-1243: Hospital Community Benefit](#), by Representative Amabile & Majority Leader Moreno

Large non-profit hospitals are required by law to invest in programs that benefit the needs of their community to qualify for tax exemptions. This legislation requires hospitals to incorporate local feedback when investing in their community, ensuring that communities have more of a say in how hospitals invest their dollars into critical services that improve public health.

[^SB23-002: Medicaid Reimbursement For Community Health Services](#), by Senators Mullica and Simpson & Speaker McCluskie and Bradfield

This bill authorizes the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to seek federal authorization to provide Medicaid reimbursement for community health worker services, making urgently-needed care both more accessible and affordable while retaining the community health workforce.

[HB23-1215: Limits On Hospital Facility Fees](#), by Representatives Sirota and Boesenecker & Senators Mullica and Cutter

Some health care centers charge patients hidden fees, often called a facility fee, on top of other service charges to cover operating costs. This bill saves Coloradans money on health care by prohibiting providers from charging a facility fee for preventative care and requires fee disclosure to patients.

[^HB23-1228: Nursing Facility Reimbursement Rate](#), by Speaker McCluskie and Representative Willford & Senators Zenzinger and Smallwood

After losing so much of their workforce during the pandemic, nursing facilities are on the brink of closing. This bill allocates \$62 million toward nursing facilities and provides more funding to facilities who support patients with complex needs.

[^SB23-083: Physician Assistant Collaboration Requirements](#), by Senators Winter and Simpson & Representatives Michaelson Jenet and Winter

Under this bill, physician assistants can treat patients if they fulfill certain requirements, making it easier for providers to deliver care in under-served areas and ultimately increase patient access to health care services in Colorado.

[^HB23-1195: Automated Pharmacy Dispensing](#), by Representatives Michaelson Jenet and Soper & Senators Ginal and Kirkmeyer

The bill authorizes a prescription drug outlet to operate an automated pharmacy dispensing system for the purpose of dispensing prescription medications, increasing access to critical drugs in areas where pharmacy access can be limited.

[HB23-1218: Health Facility Information About Denied Services](#), by Representatives Brown and Titone & Senator Jaquez Lewis

Under this bill, health care facilities would have to disclose the services they may deny for non-medical reasons, like abortion and gender-affirming care, so the public can identify facilities that provide the services they need.

[^SB23-252: Medical Price Transparency](#), by Senators Gonzales and Van Winkle & Representatives Daugherty and Hartsook

Patients often don't know in advance what they should expect to pay for medical services. This bill requires hospitals to make public a list of the shoppable services they provide, including their Medicare reimbursement rates, so patients and employers can anticipate costs and appropriately budget for medical care.

[HB23-1303: Protect Against Insurers' Impairment And Insolvency](#), by Representative Brown and Speaker McCluskie & Senators Roberts and Hansen

This bill will protect access to health insurance by stabilizing the insurance market, ensuring that an insurer must prioritize paying claims to protect Colorado's hospitals and medical providers to protect the patients receiving care.

[^HB23-1136: Prosthetic Devices For Recreational Activity](#), by Representatives Ortiz and Hartsook & Senators Winter and Liston

This bill modifies the prosthetic coverage law so health insurance plans will be required to cover an additional prosthetic device for physical or recreational activity, saving families money, improving accessibility and breaking down barriers.

Saving People Money On Housing and Empowering Tenants

[SB23-303](#) and [HB23-1311: Voter Approval To Reduce Property Taxes And Make TABOR Rebates More Equitable](#), by President Fenberg and Senator Hansen & Representatives deGruy Kennedy and Weissman

This legislation refers a measure directly to the ballot to reduce property taxes for homeowners and businesses who are being hit with drastic property tax spikes. If voters approve Proposition HH in November, the measure will deliver immediate savings and provide sustainable, long-term reductions to property tax rates. It will also bring about savings for renters and Coloradans making under \$100,000 per year by flattening TABOR refunds. Combined with property tax reductions enacted last year, this proposal will cut the average homeowner's tax increase in half, saving \$1,264 on average over the next two years.

[HB23-1095: Prohibited Provisions In Rental Agreements](#), by Representatives Woodrow and Lindsay & Senators Hinrichsen and Winter

Rental agreements often exceed 50 pages of dense text littered with hidden fees, legal traps and waivers of key rights for tenants. This bill strengthens residential lease

agreements to protect renters from signing leases with hidden language that negate legal protections for excessive fees, legal rights, and housing instability.

[HB23-1099: Portable Screening Report For Residential Leases](#), by Representatives Vigil and Weissman & Senators Fields and Exum

This bill saves Coloradans money by allowing prospective renters to reuse a rental application for up to 30 days without paying additional fees and minimizes the number of times a credit score is pulled, protecting a potential renter's credit score from being continuously damaged by inquiries.

[HB23-1120: Eviction Protections For Residential Tenants](#), by Representatives Joseph and Ortiz & Senators Fields and Winter

This bill requires residential rental agreements to include landlord-tenant mediation at no cost to the renter if the renter relies on critical safety net programs. Bolstering protection against unjust evictions for lower-income communities and Coloradans with disabilities, this bill will keep our most vulnerable Coloradans in their homes.

[HB23-1186: Remote Participation In Residential Evictions](#), by Representatives Lindsay and Jodeh & Senators Exum and Jaquez Lewis

In an effort to reduce “no-show” rates in eviction court proceedings that often result in default, this bill allows individuals to participate in county court proceedings remotely, improving accessibility for those living in rural areas and Coloradans with disabilities or transportation barriers.

[SB23-001: Public-private Collaboration Unit For Housing](#), by Senators Roberts and Zenzinger & Representatives Bird and Lukens

This bill provides \$13 million in funding for public-private partnership projects to help develop affordable workforce housing on state-owned land so that Colorado workers like teachers, firefighters and nurses can find housing that fits their budget.

[^][HB23-1184: Low-income Housing Property Tax Exemptions](#), by Representatives Lindstedt and Frizell & Senator Roberts

This bill expands property tax exemptions for nonprofit housing developers to build up Colorado's affordable housing stock and increases the Area Median Income to qualify for this housing from 80% to 100% or 120% for rural resort communities.

[HB23-1190: Affordable Housing Right Of First Refusal](#), by Representatives Boesenecker and Sirota & Senators Winter and Jaquez Lewis

Tackling Colorado's housing crisis requires that local governments be able to maintain existing affordable housing options so families are not priced out of their

communities. This bill preserves homes Coloradans can afford by allowing local governments to be competitive bidders against for-profit developers.

[HB23-1255: Prohibit Growth Caps](#), by Representatives Lindstedt and Dickson & Senator Gonzales

Arbitrary housing growth caps, known as local growth ordinances, drive up housing costs for families and force Coloradans to live farther from their workplaces. This bill prevents local governments from enacting and enforcing growth caps that limit development so that families can afford to live in the communities they want.

[SB23-184: Protections For Residential Tenants](#), by Senators Winter and Exum & Representatives Froelich and Garcia

Currently, landlords can require a tenant to earn an annual income that exceeds set “multipliers” of the annual rent, often three to five times as much. This bill expands access to housing by limiting any minimum income requirement to two times the cost of the rent and capping security deposits at two times the monthly rent.

[SB23-196: Tax Credit For Retrofitting A Home](#), by Senator Winter & Representatives Young and Ricks

This bill extends an income tax credit for Coloradans who make their home more accessible for a person with a disability, illness, or impairment. Some eligible changes include installing ramps, widening doorways, and modifying kitchen and bathrooms.

[^HB23-1304: Implementing Proposition 123 Affordable Housing](#), by Speaker McCluskie and Representative Frizell & Senators Roberts and Exum

In 2022, voters approved Proposition 123, which dedicated an estimated \$300 million to tackle our affordable housing crisis. This bill ensures all Colorado communities can access those funds and tailor them to their local housing needs.

[HB23-1068: Pet Animal Ownership In Housing](#), by Representative Valdez & Senators Winter and Jaquez Lewis

This bill addresses barriers to finding housing for renters with pets by capping expensive pet deposits at \$300, limiting excessive monthly pet rent to \$35 or 1.5% of monthly rent and creating protections for pets during evictions.

Protecting Consumers

[SB23-291: Addressing Exorbitant Utility Prices](#), by President Fenberg and Senator Cutter & Representatives deGruy Kennedy and Martinez

Unexpected and exorbitant utility bills can mean choosing between heating a home and putting food on the table. This legislation presents a package of reforms to lower

utility bills now and in the future, prevent unpredictable rate spikes, create a fairer utility rate setting process, and prevent utilities from charging their customers for lobbying and advertising costs.

[HB23-1004: Language Access In Insurance Documents](#), by Representative Velasco & Senator Gonzales

To ensure that non-English speakers can read and understand critical insurance information, this bill requires insurers to have insurance policy information professionally translated and requires that insurers offer policy documents in the same languages used for advertisements.

[SB23-093: Increase Consumer Protections In Medical Transactions](#), by Senators Cutter and Jaquez Lewis & Representatives Weissman and Brown

In 2022, Coloradans held more than \$1.3 billion in medical debt and over 12% of Coloradans have medical debt in collections. This bill protects consumers by placing a 3% cap on the interest rate on medical debt, pausing debt collection during an appeals process and prohibiting the reporting of debt to a consumer reporting agency until after a consumer fails to fulfill a payment plan.

[^HB23-1126: Consumer Reports Not Include Medical Debt Information](#), by Representatives Ricks and Weinberg & Senator Exum

Over 700,000 Coloradans have medical debt that negatively impacts their credit scores, making it harder to access affordable interest rates. This bill prevents consumer reporting agencies from including medical debt in a credit report, expands consumer privacy protections, and requires debt collectors to notify Coloradans that medical debt will no longer be included in credit reports.

[HB23-1229: Amending Consumer Lending Laws](#), by Representatives Weissman and Mabrey & Senator Gonzales

Since the voters approved an elimination of predatory payday loans in 2018, some Colorado lenders have replaced the practice with alternative charge loans, short-term loans capped at \$1,000 that skirt certain consumer protections. This bill limits lender fees on alternative charge loans and increases repayment timelines in order to protect consumers from harmful debt cycles.

[HB23-1237: Inclusive Language Emergency Situations](#), by Representative Velasco & Senators Will and Exum

Coloradans rely on emergency alerts to notify them of potential dangers, yet these alerts are typically only in English. This bill creates a study to identify how local governments and first responders can best communicate emergency information to non-English speakers and to people with a disability.

[^SB23-060: Consumer Protections In Ticket Sales](#), by Senators Rodriguez and Baisley & Representatives Daugherty and Lindsay

Between hidden fees and deceptive sales practices, it's no secret that ticket purchasing can be a frustrating process. This bill implements new protections for consumers purchasing tickets online like "speculative ticketing," a process where brokers sell tickets they don't yet possess, and requires sellers to display ticket prices with service charges and other fees included.

Safeguarding Coloradans' Rights and Freedoms

[SB23-188: Protections For Accessing Reproductive Health Care](#), by Senators Gonzales and Jaquez Lewis & Representatives Froelich and Titone

In order to protect patients, providers and assisters from anti-abortion lawsuits or legal action, this bill establishes a shield law to protect those receiving, providing, or assisting with legally-protected abortion and gender-affirming health care, including protections for out-of-state patients and providers.

[SB23-189: Increasing Access To Reproductive Health Care](#), by Majority Leader Moreno and Senator Cutter & Representatives Michaelson Jenet and Garcia

No one should have to put off life-saving, reproductive health care because they can't afford it. This bill requires coverage for the treatment and prevention of HIV, and limits surprise medical billing and cost sharing for reproductive health care services and treatment, including sexually transmitted infections and abortion care.

[SB23-190: Deceptive Trade Practice For Pregnancy-Related Services](#), by Senators Winter and Marchman & Representatives McCormick and Epps

All patients deserve access to honest, factual medical information to make informed decisions about their own reproductive health care. This bill protects patients from deceitful, misleading practices by anti-abortion centers, making it a deceptive trade practice to share information or advertise providing abortion care, emergency contraceptives or for referrals when the service is not actually provided.

[^SB23-284: Ensure 12-Month Contraception Coverage](#), by Senators Bridges and Danielson & Representatives Jodeh and Weinberg

Many Coloradans can only access three months of birth control at a time due to loopholes and compliance issues. This bill builds on a bipartisan law passed in 2017 to ensure health insurance plans and PBMs are providing coverage in compliance with current law so that Coloradans can access a year's supply of contraception.

[HB23-1032: Remedies For Persons With Disabilities](#), by Representatives Ortiz & Senator Rodriguez

This bill ensures that individuals with a disability have legal recourse if they are discriminated against by any place of public accommodation, including restaurants, theaters, doctors' offices, pharmacies, hotels, retail stores, museums, libraries, amusement parks, private schools and day care centers.

[^][HB23-1034: Measures To Expand Postconviction DNA Testing](#), by Representatives Daugherty and Soper & Senators Gonzales and Simpson

Currently, an incarcerated person can pursue DNA testing to prove the person's innocence only if DNA testing was not available at the time of prosecution. This bill expands eligibility to include those on felony parole, registered sex offenders, those charged with a felony but not convicted by reason of insanity and those who have completed their felony prison sentence.

[HB23-1042: Admissibility Standards For Juvenile Statements](#), by Representatives Bacon and Sharbini & Senator Gonzales

Children and teens are especially vulnerable to tactics that are deliberately misleading, leading to high rates of false confessions and putting Colorado kids behind bars. This bill prohibits a juvenile's statement from being admitted in court if law enforcement used deceptive practices during a custodial interrogation and supports juvenile interrogation training for law enforcement to reduce the likelihood of false confessions.

[HB23-1155: Advisement Of Rights During A Custodial Interrogation](#), by Representatives Weissman and Bacon & Senator Gonzales

In 2022, a Supreme Court decision determined that law enforcement officers could not be sued for a constitutional violation if they failed to administer Miranda warnings, giving states the responsibility to guarantee that people under interrogation are aware of their Fifth Amendment rights before any statements are used against them in court. This bill codifies Miranda Rights in Colorado law, protecting Coloradans' legal right to representation and against self-incrimination.

[SB23-254: Search Warrant Procedures](#), by Senators Fields and Gonzales & Representatives Epps and Weissman

By implementing much-needed safety measures regarding when and how no-knock warrants can be executed, this bill will help prevent avoidable tragedies, like the killing of Breonna Taylor, and rebuild trust between communities and law enforcement.

[HB23-1196: Remedies For Child Labor Law Violations](#), by Representative Lieder & Senator Sullivan

In response to recent child labor law violations, this bill amends language in the Colorado Youth Employment Opportunity Act of 1971 to expand the legal action that a child, or a parent of a child, can take to hold a company accountable for breaking child labor laws.

[SB23-276: Strengthening Our Gold-Standard Elections](#), by President Fenberg & Representative Sirota

Colorado is a national role model for administering secure, safe, accessible, and fair elections. This bill builds on decades of gold-standard elections by increasing funding for local elections offices, modernizing ID systems, and improving transparency. It also tackles voting access barriers for Native American and Indigenous people, incarcerated Coloradans and college students.

[SB23-105: Ensure Equal Pay For Equal Work](#), by Senators Danielson and Buckner & Representatives Gonzales-Gutierrez and Bacon

The Equal Pay for Equal Work Act is already law, yet women in Colorado are still earning less than men for doing the same job. This bill strengthens the law by requiring the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment to accept and mediate complaints, provide legal resources, and to develop rules to further prevent wage discrimination. It also doubles the maximum period for which a person pursuing a complaint may receive back pay.

[SB23-172: Protecting Opportunities And Workers' Rights Act](#), by Senators Winter and Gonzales & Representatives Weissman and Bacon

Every Coloradan deserves to earn a living in a workspace free of harassment or discrimination. This bill updates the definition of harassment, modernizes disclosure agreements, and expands protections for survivors to pursue justice.

[SB23-296: Preventing Harassment And Discrimination In Schools](#), by Senators Winter and Marchman & Representatives Bacon and Herod

All students deserve to learn in an environment free from fear. This bill helps schools better support students experiencing harassment and discrimination and streamlines investigation processes so that students can focus on learning.

[HB23-1191: Prohibit Corporal Punishment Of Children](#), by Representative English and Senator Fields

Corporal punishment can negatively impact physical and mental health, lead to poor educational outcomes, and cause an increase in violence and trauma in our children.

This bill prohibits an employee or volunteer in certain school and childcare settings from using corporal punishment on a child under their care.

[HB23-1296: Task Force For Disability Rights](#), by Representatives Ortiz and Herod & Senator Winter

With 20% of Coloradans living with a disability, this legislation works toward protecting civil liberties and expanding basic access to housing, employment, recreation and government services by assembling a diverse task force to study the implementation of basic access and ensure civil rights of individuals with disabilities.

[HB23-1057: Public Amenities For All Genders](#), by Representatives McCormick and Vigil & Senator Jaquez Lewis

Everyone deserves access to a public restroom that accommodates them. The bill requires new or soon to be renovated public buildings to provide a non-gendered restroom and changing station on each floor where a restroom is publicly available.

[HB23-1077: Informed Consent To Intimate Patient Examinations](#), by Representatives Willford and Garcia & Senators Winter and Jaquez Lewis

Across the country, medical students and residents are performing unauthorized intimate exams, including pelvic exams on patients under medical sedation for unrelated surgeries. The bill requires informed consent from patients before performing intimate examinations, unless in emergency situations.

Improving Public Safety and Reducing Recidivism

[HB23-1219: Waiting Period To Deliver A Firearm](#), by Representatives Froelich and Amabile & Senators Sullivan and Hansen

Colorado has one of the highest suicide rates in the US, and more than half of those suicides are by firearm. This bill establishes a three-day waiting period to purchase a firearm, delaying immediate access to firearms and preventing impulsive acts of violence, including suicides, homicides and assaults. Research shows that creating a waiting period for purchasing a firearm has led to a 7 to 11% reduction in suicides by firearm and a 17% reduction in firearm-related homicides.

[SB23-169: Increasing Minimum Age To Purchase Firearms](#), by Senators Mullica and Danielson & Majority Leader Duran and Representative Hamrick

Right now, individuals must be 21 to purchase a handgun but only 18 to purchase long guns. This bill increases the age to purchase a firearm to 21 for all firearm purchases, with limited exceptions. Nationwide, firearms are the leading cause of death for young people ages 18 to 20, and the firearm suicide rate among this group has increased a staggering 61% in the last decade.

[SB23-170: Extreme Risk Protection Order Petitions](#), by Senator Sullivan and President Fenberg & Representatives Bacon and Weissman

Currently, a petition for firearm removal can only be filed by a family member or a law enforcement officer. This bill expands the list of individuals eligible to file an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) to include district attorneys and other law enforcement officials, licensed health care providers, mental health professionals, and educators, allowing more individuals to intervene before gun violence has a chance to occur.

[SB23-279: Ghost Guns](#), by Senators Fields and Hansen & Representatives Boesenecker and Joseph

“Ghost guns” are unregulated, untraceable firearms that can be bought online and assembled at home, often through DIY kits or downloadable blueprints. They evade gun laws by being available to purchase without a background check, serial number, or sale record. The bill prohibits the possession, sale, or transfer of an unserialized firearm, frame or receiver and prohibits manufacturing a frame or receiver, including via a 3D printer, unless done by a federally licensed firearm manufacturer.

[^][SB23-097: Reducing Auto Theft](#), by Senators Zenzinger and Gardner & Representatives Bird and Soper

Having a car stolen can pose a major disruption to daily work, child care, and other obligations, and Coloradans are experiencing a rise in car theft. This bill updates auto theft offenses so that penalties are no longer tied to the value of the stolen vehicle and increases accountability while deterring repeat offenses.

[HB23-1167: Good Samaritan Overdose Law](#), by Representatives deGruy Kennedy and Sharbini & Senator Rodriguez

Across Colorado, five people die each day from preventable overdoses. This bill will save lives by restoring the Good Samaritan immunity law so that the fear of a criminal charge does not stop Coloradans from calling 911, staying at the scene of an overdose, and fully cooperating with law enforcement to try to save a life.

[^][HB23-1037: Earned Time For College Completion](#), by Representatives Martinez and Pugliese & Senator Gonzales

Giving Coloradans who are incarcerated access to education allows them to build the skills they need to thrive after they’re released, reducing recidivism and helping to support their families. This bill allows people to reduce their sentence for a nonviolent offense by completing an accredited degree while incarcerated.

[HB23-1133: Cost Of Phone Calls From Prison](#), by Representatives Lindsay and Amabile & Senators Gonzales and Rodriguez

Lowering the cost of prison phone calls has been shown to reduce recidivism and better prepare incarcerated people for their release by helping them maintain critical connections. This bill develops a plan to cover the full cost of communication services for people in state custody.

[HB23-1187: Supporting Pregnant People In The Criminal Justice System](#), by Representatives Bacon and Amabile & Senators Gonzales and Fields

All Coloradans deserve dignity and respect as they give birth, recover from pregnancy, and care for a newborn, including those involved in the criminal justice system. This bill enables courts to consider alternative sentencing options for pregnant or postpartum Coloradans in order to keep new families together and reduce the chances of future involvement in the justice system.

[^HB23-1249: Investing In Justice System Alternatives For Young Children](#), by Representatives Gonzales-Gutierrez and Armagost & Senators Coleman and Simpson

When children come into contact with the juvenile justice system, it can lead to a long-term cycle of incarceration. This bill invests in Collaborative Management Programs so kids as young as 10-years-old can get the services they need, such as behavioral health care, and address the root causes that lead to criminal activity.

[SB23-039: Reduce Child And Incarcerated Parent Separation](#), by Senator Buckner & Representative Amabile

This legislation aims to break cycles of incarceration by implementing policies to maintain connections between incarcerated family members and their children.

[^SB23-067: Recidivism Reduction Program](#), by Senator Coleman & Representatives Bacon and Holtorf

The bill develops a pre-release and reentry program at the Sterling correctional facility to provide incarcerated individuals with resources such as job training to support their rehabilitation, reduce recidivism and keep communities safe.

[HB23-1223: Prioritizing Grants To Target Populations](#), by Representatives Bacon and English & Senator Fields

The bill creates a task force to establish shared goals, objectives, and guidelines for state and community-based agencies to reduce youth violence and suicide. The task force will identify communities with disproportionately high impacts and align resources and interventions to target grant funding to those communities most in need.

Expanding Services and Access to Justice for Victims of Crime

[SB23-168: Gun Violence Victims' Access To Judicial System](#), by Senators Jaquez Lewis and Kolker & Representatives Mabrey and Parenti

Right now, gun sellers and manufacturers enjoy broad protections under federal law from most types of civil lawsuits, and Colorado law goes even further by including a punitive provision that makes victims of gun violence who sue the gun industry pay the company's legal fees in dismissed cases. This bill removes Colorado's overly-broad immunity protections for gun sellers and manufacturers and allows legitimate lawsuits against the gun industry to move forward.

^[HB23-1107: Funding For Crime Victims Services](#), by Majority Leader Duran and Representative Pugliese & Senators Gardner and Winter

To better support victims of crime, this bill invests \$3 million and extends services for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

[HB23-1178: Domestic Violence Awareness in Court](#), by Representative Froelich & Senator Winter

Under this bill, judges and other court personnel will receive training regarding child abuse, child sexual abuse, and custody decisions on a recurring basis to encourage outcomes that ensure the safety and well-being of Colorado children.

^[HB23-1199: Rape Kit Process Improvements](#), by Representatives Froelich and Soper & Senator Winter

Colorado has a backlog of rape kits and other forensic medical evidence obtained during examinations. This bill allows crime victims to monitor the status of the evidence and information about the processing, custody, analysis or destruction of it, and prohibits a medical facility from billing a victim for medical costs associated with the examination.

[HB23-1222: Domestic Violence Cases In Municipal Court](#), by Majority Leader Duran and Representative Weissman & Senators Roberts and Winter

Municipal courts sometimes lack the victim services to justly adjudicate domestic violence cases. This bill establishes new requirements to ensure that victims have the same resources and safety precautions as would be available in a higher court.

[SB23-054: Missing And Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office](#), by Senator Danielson & Representatives Garcia and Velasco

The number of missing and murdered indigenous people, especially women, has reached a crisis point nationwide. This bill improves coordination, response,

communication and awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) cases to better support family members through the judicial process.

Creating Wildfire-resilient Communities

[SB23-013: Fire Investigations](#), by Senators Ginal and Cutter & Representative Story

With fire season now a year-round threat, preparing for and mitigating wildfires is more essential than ever. This bill creates the fire investigation fund and provides local fire departments with the tools they need to better investigate the causes and origins of fires, including wildfires.

[^][SB23-161: Financing To Purchase Firefighting Aircraft](#), by President Fenberg and Senator Will & Minority Lynch and Speaker McCluskie

This bill allows the state to purchase a second Firehawk helicopter, the most technologically advanced firefighting aircraft available, ensuring the Division of Fire Prevention and Control has at least one Firehawk available for rapid response to catastrophic wildfires at all times.

[HB23-1060: State Forest Service Tree Nursery](#), by Representative Story and Senator Cutter

To meet our conservation demands and increase reforestation efforts that mitigate wildfire risks, this bill updates and expands the operations of the Colorado State Forest Service Seedling Tree Nursery and ensures we use Colorado-grown seedlings for more climate-resilient watersheds.

[HB23-1273: Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant Program](#), by Representatives Snyder and Joseph & Senator Roberts

Wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts can save Coloradans money, while reducing displacement and devastation. This bill creates the Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant Program, a program to help qualified homeowners cover the cost of retrofitting their property and better protecting our communities from wildfires.

[^][SB23-005: Forestry And Wildfire Mitigation Workforce](#), by Senators Jaquez Lewis and Cutter & Minority Leader Lynch and Representative Snyder

This bill bolsters our state's wildfire mitigation and forestry workforce by increasing internship opportunities within the State Forest Service, promoting career opportunities and wildfire prevention courses.

[SB23-166: Wildfire Resiliency Code Board](#), by Senators Cutter and Exum & Representatives Froelich and Velasco

This bill establishes a statewide wildfire resiliency code board charged with identifying building codes to better protect life and property against increasingly common wildfires. These building codes will help Coloradans living in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) defend their property from catastrophic wildfires.

[HB23-1288: Fair Access To Insurance](#), by Speaker McCluskie and Representative Amabile & Senator Roberts

As destructive wildfires become more frequent in residential areas, many Coloradans struggle to find a private insurer that will offer any insurance coverage for their property. This bill creates the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan Association, a nonprofit, unincorporated legal entity, to help insure homes and businesses located in wildfire zones.

[^][HB23-1174: Homeowner's Insurance](#), by Representatives Amabile and Brown & Senators Roberts and Baisley

With catastrophic wildfire damage in recent years, thousands of people have been displaced and saddled with costs with minimal help from their home insurance company. This bill requires home insurance companies to offer a variety of coverage options that cover the repair or replacement of a damaged or destroyed structure, allowing Coloradans to choose a coverage option that provides them peace of mind.

[HB23-1266: Reverse Mortgage For Uninhabitable Homes](#), by Representatives Brown and Ricks & Senators Jaquez Lewis and Buckner

This bill creates an exception to the residency requirement for homeowners utilizing reverse mortgages when their property is uninhabitable due to a natural disaster or another major incident, ensuring homeowners can't be foreclosed upon and on the hook because they lost their home to a wildfire or other natural disaster.

[HB23-1240: Wildfire Disaster Construction](#), by Representatives Brown and Amabile & President Fenberg

Nearly 60% of families who lost their homes in the Marshall Fire did not have sufficient insurance coverage to rebuild. This bill creates a retroactive state sales tax exemption for construction and building materials for homeowners looking to rebuild or repair their home after a declared wildfire disaster between 2020 and 2022.

[HB23-1075: Wildfire Evacuation And Clearance Time Modeling](#), by Representatives Snyder and Joseph & Senator Exum

This bill requires the Office of Emergency Management to conduct a study to identify and assess available technology to help with evacuation and clearance time modeling in local emergency management plans so that communities understand what they're supposed to do in the case of a wildfire emergency.

Protecting Our Water and Investing in Agriculture

[HB23-1242: Water Conservation In Oil And Gas Operations](#), by Representatives Boesenecker and Joseph & Senators Cutter and Priola

Last year, oil and gas operations in Colorado used nearly 24 million gallons of freshwater per well. This bill will save billions of gallons of fresh water for farmers and communities by requiring oil and gas operators to transition from using fresh water to recycled water and by improving transparency and reporting on water usage.

[^][SB23-178: Water-wise Landscaping In Homeowners' Associations](#), by Senators Jaquez Lewis and Will & Representatives McCormick and Lindsay

Water-wise yards save fresh water, require less maintenance than traditional turf lawns, and utilize native plants that better sustain Colorado's local ecosystem. This bill reduces barriers facing Colorado homeowners living in homeowners' associations (HOAs) who wish to replace their lawns with water-wise landscaping.

[^][SB23-270: Natural Stream System Restoration](#), by Senators Roberts and Simpson & Representatives McCormick and Catlin

Healthy stream systems support local farmlands and improve wildfire resilience, watershed health and flood safety. By simplifying the process for stream restoration projects and removing legal roadblocks to federal water funding, this bill will help restore natural water systems and ecosystems.

[^][SB23-295: Colorado River Drought Task Force](#), by Senators Roberts and Will & Speaker McCluskie and Representative Catlin

The Colorado River has declined 20% over the last 20 years, leaving our state and the entire West facing the worst drought conditions in twelve hundred years. Climate change, increased demands, and population growth will continue to put more pressure on our water supply. The Colorado River Drought Task Force will develop recommendations for state legislation that provides tools to address this crisis.

[^][HB23-1011: Consumer Right To Repair Agricultural Equipment](#), by Representatives Titone and Weinberg & Senators Hinrichsen and Marchman

Right now, farmers must utilize mechanics authorized by the manufacturer in order to repair critical farm equipment like tractors and combines. This bill saves farmers money and time by requiring manufacturers to provide parts, software, tools, and diagnostic & maintenance manuals to independent repair providers and equipment owners, establishing a first-in-the-nation 'right to repair' in Colorado that allows farmers and ranchers the freedom to fix their own farm equipment.

[^HB23-1094: Extend Agricultural Workforce Development Program](#), by Representatives Lukens and Catlin & Senators Roberts and Pelton

To boost workforce development and job creation in the agriculture industry, this bill trains, educates and uplifts the next generation of agricultural workers through hands-on internships and training.

[^SB23-255: Wolf Depredation Compensation Fund](#), by Senators Roberts and Will & Speaker McCluskie and Representative Catlin

This bill honors a core commitment of voter initiated Proposition 114 by creating a dedicated fund to compensate livestock owners and agricultural producers who suffer the loss or injury of their livestock and working animals from wolf predation.

[^SB23-050: Agricultural Loan Program](#), by Senators Roberts and Simpson & Representatives McCormick and Holtorf

The state has issued nearly \$6 million in loans for farm-to-market infrastructure projects and \$10 million in loans to farmers and ranchers since 2021. This bill expands eligibility to allow more businesses, farmers and ranchers access to these loans.

[^SB23-006: Rural Opportunity Office](#), by Senators Roberts and Rich & Representatives McLachlan and Catlin

To expand rural job opportunities, this bill creates the Rural Opportunity Office to support rural economic development and assist communities in transitioning away from coal-based economies.

[HB23-1257: Mobile Home Park Water Quality](#), by Representatives Velasco and Boesenecker & Senators Cutter and Priola

Coloradans deserve access to clean water. This bill addresses water quality in mobile home parks by creating a new testing program and action plan for water quality improvement that incorporates feedback from parks and residents. It also establishes the Mobile Home Water Quality Grant Program to help park owners, nonprofits and local governments address water quality and wastewater issues.

Honoring Our Veterans

[HB23-1052](#) and [^SB23-036: Expanding Property Tax Exemption For Veterans With A Disability](#), by Representatives Marshall, Ortiz and Armagost & Senators Fields, Cutter and Pelton

In Colorado, veterans with a disability have the right to claim a property tax exemption on their homes. These bills expand the homestead exemption to veterans who have individual unemployability status and streamline the application process to reduce wait times.

[^][HB23-1053: Veterans' Cemetery](#), by Representatives Ortiz and Hartsook & Senators Zenzinger and Rich

This bill identifies funding for grounds improvements and maintenance for the Western Slope Veterans' Cemetery Fund, allowing increased flexibility to support important services for Colorado veterans.

[HB23-1088: Veterans Mental Health Session Reimbursement Program](#), by Representative Martinez & Senator Hinrichsen

Annual limits on VA-covered behavioral health care can leave our veterans without a place to turn for support. This bill establishes the Veterans Mental Health Services Program to expand access to behavioral health services and reimburse providers for twenty behavioral health sessions per year with an eligible veteran.

[^][HB23-1084: Continuation Of Military Retirement Benefit Deduction](#), by Representatives Ortiz and Bradfield & Senators Zenzinger and Gardner

By ensuring continuity for our veterans through the continuation of the state income tax deductions for military retirement benefits, this bill provides assurances that veterans are not required to pay state taxes on their federal military pension.

Defeating Dangerous GOP Bills

Bills that would have Undermined Public Schools

[HB23-1079](#): Income Tax Credits For Nonpublic Education

[HB23-1063](#): Reduction Of State Income Tax

Bills that would have Banned Abortion

[HB23-1119](#): Abolishing Abortion In Colorado

[HB23-1150](#): Abortion Pill Reversal

[HB23-1097](#): Painkiller Administration Prior To Abortion

Bills that would have risked Health & Safety

[HB23-1163](#): Revoke Carbon Dioxide Status As A Pollutant

[HB23-1050](#): Colorado Shoot First Law

[HB23-1044](#): Second Amendment Preservation Act

[HB23-1029](#): Prohibit COVID-19 Vaccine To Minor Without Consent

[HB23-1098](#): Discrimination In Sports

Bills that would have Dismantled Safe Elections

[HB23-1170](#): Distributed Ledgers Voting