## **BOOSTING OUR ECONOMY & SUPPORTING**



## WORKERS



#### **Protecting Hardworking Coloradans**

This session, Democrats worked hard to make sure all Coloradans have the opportunity to earn a fair wage, work in safe conditions, and provide for their families.

Democrats passed historic legislation to support workers and eliminate Colorado's uniquely onerous second election required to form a union. <u>SB25-005</u> updates the Colorado Labor Peace Act to make it easier for workers to negotiate for better pay, benefits, and safety on the job.

Democrats passed legislation to crack down on wage theft, boosting economic security for Colorado workers by ensuring they are paid for their work (<u>HB25-1001</u>). We also passed legislation to allow public construction projects to ensure clear and fair standards for construction workers (<u>HB25-1130</u>).

Health care workers who provide life-saving care face high rates of workplace violence. Democrats passed legislation to protect Colorado's health care workers by implementing best practices and ensuring that hospitals are taking steps to keep those providers safer from violence (SB25-166). Democrats also passed legislation to boost the incomes and working conditions for home care workers and increase access to quality health care (HB25-1328).

To ensure that people who are injured on the job can access workers' compensation benefits and have agency over their care, Democrats passed legislation that will give injured workers the ability to choose their own physician and shift the burden of proof from the claimant to the insurer in workers' compensation claims (<u>HB25-1300</u>).

Democrats also passed legislation to allow parents of children who are receiving inpatient care in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) to receive paid family and medical insurance benefits for up to an additional twelve weeks, offering relief to families facing added challenges when caring for newborns (SB25-144).



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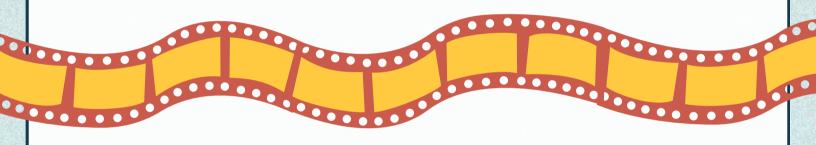
# WORKERS



#### **Creating Good-Paying Jobs and Boosting Local Economies**

Colorado Democrats invested in our communities to create good jobs and boost our local and state economies.

Democrats passed legislation that successfully attracted the Sundance Film Festival to Boulder, Colorado, starting in 2027. The bill will also boost small and existing film festivals across Colorado. In addition to cementing Colorado's place as a global hub for the arts, Sundance is anticipated to create hundreds of jobs and generate millions of dollars in economic activity and revenue (HB25-1005).



New legislation builds upon existing programs to boost communities as they transition away from coal-based economies and ensure that projects funded by the Office of Just Transition are responsive to local voices and needs (SB25-037). Another bill will extend and improve a program that allows utility companies to offer reduced electricity rates to incentivize businesses to relocate or expand their operations in Colorado, fostering economic growth and job opportunities (HB25-1177).

To create job opportunities and train Colorado's emerging health care workforce, Democrats also established a new Workforce Capacity Center to create pathways for job-seekers to fill desperately needed roles in the system of care for children and youth with severe mental and behavioral health care needs (SB25-292). Employee-owned businesses strengthen our economy and help small businesses focus on serving their local communities and investing in their employees. New legislation would save small businesses money and incentivize a move towards employee-owned business models (HB25-1021).

