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Colorado House Democrats 2020 End of Session Report

MEETING THE MOMENT, GOVERNING RESPONSIBLY IN A CRISIS

The 2020 legislative session was unlike any other session before it. From an unprecedented global health emergency and the dire budget consequences we faced, to the chaotic flashpoint of a centuries-long struggle for justice taking place outside of the Capitol, we've had everything but business as usual at the General Assembly this year.

Colorado House Democrats rose to the occasion and worked to pass responsible laws to protect the health and safety of hardworking Coloradans and get our state back on track.

In response to the pandemic, we passed legislation to provide \$270 millions in grants and loans to small businesses, channeled tens of millions in direct housing assistance, utilities support and mental health assistance, ensured access to paid sick leave for Colorado workers and expanded unemployment benefits) to help hardworking Coloradans make ends meet.

When the murder of George Floyd sparked protests about generations of racial injustice in Denver and across the country, House Democrats stepped up and passed sweeping, bipartisan reform measures to enhance accountability, integrity, and transparency in law enforcement.

We also continued to move our state forward on issues that are important to Coloradans, such as improving air quality, reducing the cost of health care, addressing youth nicotine use, creating a robust retirement savings system and increasing access to higher education. We worked to protect renters and increase access to affordable housing, and advanced bills to help more hardworking Coloradans access the critical services they need.

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COVID-19 RELIEF PACKAGE

Small Business Recovery Loans*

[HB20-1413](#) -- *Reps. Shannon Bird and Lisa Cutter*

House Democrats made supporting small businesses a cornerstone of our COVID-19 response because we know they are the backbone of our economy, and many are struggling to make ends meet during this public health crisis. This bill establishes a small business recovery loan fund that consists of \$250 million of state and private dollars for first loss capital on loans to small businesses over the next two years. This fund will help stimulate loans to Colorado small businesses and support the state's economic recovery and resiliency.

Small Business Grant Program*

[SB20-222](#) -- *Reps. Mary Young and Perry Will*

This grant program will deploy \$20 million in federal CARES Act funding to small businesses across the state, including \$5 million for tourism businesses which have been particularly hard hit. Small businesses with fewer than 25 employees are eligible to apply, with preference given to those who did not qualify for the federal Paycheck Protection Program, those owned by veterans, women, or minorities, and those located in rural areas.

Coronavirus Relief Funds for Housing Assistance*

[HB20-1410](#) -- *Reps. Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez and Tony Exum, Sr.*

During the COVID pandemic, many Coloradans have struggled to keep up with rent or mortgage payments and fear that they could be at risk of losing their homes. This bill provides \$20 million in direct rental and mortgage assistance to Coloradans experiencing a financial need during these turbulent times, including \$350,000 for legal aid for renters at risk of eviction.

** indicates that the bill passed with bipartisan support*

Coronavirus Relief Funds for Utility Assistance*

[HB20-1412](#) -- *Reps. Chris Kennedy and Lisa Cutter*

While most utilities have suspended utility disconnections due to the pandemic, households facing economic hardship will still have to catch up on their utility bills once the disconnection moratoria are lifted, or else will likely have their utilities shut off. The bill allocates \$4.8 million to the Energy Outreach Colorado Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund, which helps Coloradans who are at risk of having their service shut off catch up on their utility payments.

Coronavirus Relief Funds for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs*

[HB20-1411](#) -- *Reps. Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Tracy Kraft-Tharp*

The need for behavioral health services is greater than ever due to the challenges associated with COVID-19 and the more than half a million individuals who have filed for unemployment in Colorado. Young people have been especially impacted—teachers are reporting an increased need for mental health support for students struggling with schooling at home. This bill dedicates \$15 million to critical mental health programs and substance abuse treatment.

Earned Sick Leave for Employees*

[SB20-205](#) -- *Speaker KC Becker and Rep. Yadira Caraveo*

Up until now, 40% of Colorado’s workforce did not have the opportunity to earn paid sick days creating a “work while sick” culture that increases the deadly transmission of illnesses such as COVID-19. This bill guarantees access to paid sick time for Colorado workers, allowing those who are ill to protect their coworkers, customers, and loved ones by staying home, without the fear of losing their income.

Expand Unemployment Insurance*

[SB20-207](#) -- *Reps. Matt Gray and Tom Sullivan*

[SB20-170](#)-- *Reps. Dominique Jackson and Monica Duran*

During a time of unprecedented unemployment, these bills expand eligibility for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits and increase the benefits workers can receive. Some of these increased benefits include the amount a worker can earn while remaining eligible for UI, an easier process for survivors of domestic violence, and an expanded definition of “good cause” for a worker to quit and still receive benefits, including lack of childcare as a result of school closures.

Protections Against Price Gouging*

[HB20-1414](#) -- *Reps. Mike Weissman and Brianna Titone*

Unfortunately, during times of emergency, unscrupulous individuals sometimes try to take advantage of scarcity to raise prices on necessary goods to exorbitant levels. This bill expands the authority of the Attorney General or local District Attorneys to crack down on these unfair and outrageous practices.

Whistleblower Protection for Public Health Emergencies*

[HB20-1415](#) -- *Reps. Leslie Herod and Tom Sullivan*

The vast majority of businesses are trying to be responsible and keep people safe during this pandemic, but there are workers who have been fired for raising concerns about safety protocols in their workplace. This policy protects workers from retaliation for raising health and safety concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic and protects workers’ right to wear personal protective equipment, such as masks.

** indicates that the bill passed with bipartisan support*

Limitations on Extraordinary Debt Collection*

[SB20-211](#) -- Rep. Leslie Herod

This bill allows the state to take action to better protect Coloradans in this time of crisis by setting a moratorium on new extraordinary debt collection, like wage garnishment and liens, through November 1, and allows the Attorney General to take further action if needed. The bill also allows an individual to protect up to \$4,000 in their bank account from debt collection, to ensure that they can keep some savings during this difficult time to pay for rent or utilities.

2-1-1 Statewide Human Services Referral System*

[HB20-1197](#) -- Reprs. Marc Snyder and Janice Rich

The Governor issued an executive order directing the 2-1-1 information hotline to provide human services referrals related to the pandemic, including information on COVID test sites, emergency assistance, housing support, and information related to worker protections and health care discrimination. This bill provides an additional \$500,000 to extend these services through the end of 2020.

Food Pantry Assistance*

[HB20-1422](#) -- Reprs. Daneya Esgar and Lisa Cutter

During the COVID-19 pandemic, food pantries have been under immense strain to meet the needs of a growing number of families experiencing food insecurity. This bill provides \$500,000 in funding for food banks to purchase more food and make it available across the state, and to create new market opportunities for Colorado's agricultural producers.

Telehealth Services Expansion*

[SB20-212](#) -- Reprs. Susan Lontine and Matt Soper

This bill protects patients' ability to continue to receive care via telehealth. Telehealth has kept patients and providers safe while allowing patients to continue their care plan, but this expanded access was set to end until the legislature acted to extend it.

Extend Restaurant Takeout & Delivery of Alcoholic Beverages*

[SB20-213](#) -- Reprs. Dylan Roberts and Colin Larson

Selling alcohol to-go has been a crucial tool to help restaurants weather the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. This bill formalizes and extends their ability to generate additional revenue with alcohol to-go for two years beyond the Governor's Executive Order.

PRIORITIZING OUR SCHOOLS

Remove Corporate Tax Breaks to Fund K-12 Education*

[HB20-1420](#) -- Reprs. Emily Sirota and Matt Gray

This bill eliminates tax handouts for special interests and the very wealthiest individuals, and uses the savings to help protect K-12 schools from devastating cuts during this economic crisis.

College Credit for Work Experience*

[HB20-1002](#) -- Reprs. Barbara McLachlan and Mark Baisley

Many non-traditional students have gained significant learning experiences directly on the job. Thanks to this bill, they will be able to get academic credit for that experience that will be

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accepted and transferable across all state institutions, improving higher education access and affordability for Coloradans at all stages of life.

Improvements to Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative*

[SB20-006](#) -- *Reps. Cathy Kipp and Mark Baisley*

The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative provides tuition assistance and supports so students have affordable access to postsecondary opportunities. This bill makes updates to the program in order to better meet the needs of all COSI scholars.

Test Scores on Transcripts and for College Admissions*

[SB20-175](#) -- *Reps. Brianna Titone and Barbara McLachlan*

[HB20-1407](#) -- *Reps. Cathy Kipp and Mark Baisley*

For high school seniors, the COVID-19 pandemic caused serious disruption for their plans for higher education when testing sites for the SAT and ACT closed down. The legislature acted to allow institutions of higher education to not require a standardized test score as part of their admissions process. As colleges and universities strive to remove barriers for students to obtain a degree by moving away from using standardized tests as a means of screening applicants, students will now be able to decide if they want to include their test score on their transcript.

Working Together to Keep Our Schools Safe*

[SB20-023](#) -- *Reps. Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Kevin Van Winkle*

Our school hallways should be the safest place for our children, which is why the legislature has prioritized school safety measures in light of recent school shootings. This bill will help better align the various departments and stakeholders that are involved in school safety to improve collaboration and put forward recommendations to improve school safety for Colorado students.

Holocaust & Genocide Studies in Public Schools*

[HB20-1336](#) -- *Reps. Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Emily Sirota*

In the absence of education, history will repeat itself. This bill asks school districts to incorporate a Holocaust and genocide studies component into an existing course that is required for graduation, and creates a publicly available resource bank with sample academic content and lesson plans developed with expert input.

Connecting Students with Apprenticeships*

[SB20-081](#) -- *Reps. Tom Sullivan and Colin Larson*

This bill promotes Colorado's apprenticeship programs by connecting employers with their local school officials and Colorado students. Both schools and potential employers have expressed challenges in connecting students directly with apprenticeship opportunities.

Return on Investment for Higher Education*

[HB20-1280](#) -- *Reps. Cathy Kipp and Colin Larson*

This bill protects students from predatory for-profit colleges by giving them details on the return on investment for that degree, so they can make informed decisions on their higher education.

Behavioral Health and Special Educator Training Requirements*

[HB20-1312](#) -- *Reps. Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Brianna Titone*

[HB20-1128](#) -- *Reps. Bri Buentello and James Wilson*

** indicates that the bill passed with bipartisan support*

Our education system is best when our educators have the skills and tools they need to help all of their students have the same chance at success. These bills move us towards that goal by requiring Colorado educators to complete 10 hours of professional development training on students with disabilities, behavioral health concerns and other related matters.

Eliminate Unnecessary Academic Testing*

[HB20-1135](#) -- *Reps. Barbara McLachlan and Perry Buck*

This bill eliminates the statewide social studies assessment, which has not been administered since the 2014-15 school year. Removing this unnecessary testing requirement lets teachers focus their time instead on teaching this important subject.

Professional Training for Educators*

[SB20-158](#) -- *Reps. Barbara McLachlan and James Wilson*

Our state has made great strides in tackling the state's educator shortage, and this bill builds off of that progress by streamlining requirements for educator stipends to increase the number of quality educators in rural areas, increasing accountability in educator preparation programs, and removing arbitrary caps on the number of applicants for the educator loan forgiveness program to increase participation across the state.

SECURING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

Colorado Secure Savings Program

[SB20-200](#) -- *Speaker KC Becker and Rep. Tracy Kraft-Tharp*

Over 40% of Colorado's workforce does not have access to a retirement plan through their job, and the modern economy has made it more important than ever for workers to have flexible retirement savings. This bill establishes a statewide auto-enrollment IRA plan to encourage workers to save by expanding access to inexpensive and portable retirement accounts.

Contracting Support for Small Businesses*

[HB20-1116](#) -- *Reps. Tom Sullivan and Daneya Esgar*

The Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAC) provides free consulting to Colorado's small businesses, including women, veteran, and minority-owned small businesses, when applying for and performing government contracts at the federal, state and local levels. This bill extends this successful program for five years.

Cost Of Living Adjustment For Colorado Works Program*

[SB20-029](#) -- *Reps. James Coleman and Monica Duran*

Families enrolled in the Colorado Works Program who are experiencing poverty need additional help to weather the immediate effects of the economic crisis brought on by COVID-19. This bill authorizes a one-time \$500 basic cash assistance payment to these families.

Social Equity Licensees In Regulated Marijuana*

[HB20-1424](#) -- *Rep. James Coleman*

Although marijuana has been legalized in Colorado for several years, the economic opportunities in this industry have not been equally accessible to communities of color. This bill turns the accelerator license into a social equity license, giving program participants technical assistance from experienced retail marijuana professionals. It also gives the Governor expanded authority

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to pardon people who were convicted of possession of up to two ounces of marijuana before it was legalized, which has disproportionately impacted these communities.

Collective Bargaining for Public Sector Employees

[HB20-1153](#) -- Rep. Daneya Esgar

The ability to collectively bargain empowers workers to fight for a better life for themselves, their families and their communities. This bill allows state employees to collectively bargain on matters of pay, benefits, and terms of employment and fosters new partnerships between frontline workers and the state that will lead to innovation and improved state services.

Authorizes Attorney General to Challenge Fed-reviewed Mergers & Antitrust*

[SB20-064](#) --Reps. Kerry Tipper and Matt Soper

This bill empowers the Attorney General to protect Coloradans against unfair business practices like monopolies by expanding their authority to challenge a business merger or acquisition that the federal administration has chosen not to challenge.

SUPPORTING OUR RURAL ECONOMIES

Economic Incentives for New Rural Businesses*

[HB20-1003](#) -- Reps. Dylan Roberts and Janice Rich

This bill supports rural businesses and their employees by extending the Rural Jump-Start Program by five years and expanding eligibility so that more businesses can take advantage of the incentives and benefits offered for economically distressed areas of rural Colorado.

Rural Economic Development Grants*

[SB20-002](#) -- Reps. Barbara McLachlan and Bri Buentello

This bill codifies and strengthens the successful Rural Economic Development Initiative, ensuring that the program continues to promote rural economic development for years to come.

Broadband for Small Rural Communities*

[HB20-1137](#) -- Reps. Julie McCluskie and Matt Soper

At a time when many Colorado students are learning at home, and even more families are working at home, access to reliable internet has never been more important. This bill offers a more efficient way to determine an “unserved area” and help small rural communities get the resources they need to develop and deploy critical broadband technology.

RESTORING JUSTICE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity*

[SB20-217](#) -- Reps. Leslie Herod and Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez

For far too long, police brutality has continued an American legacy of systemic racism that has wreaked havoc on Black communities. This bill increases the transparency, integrity, and accountability of Colorado’s law enforcement, and finally makes justice possible for victims of police misconduct. It reins in the use of deadly force and requires officers to wear body cameras, promptly release footage of misconduct to the public, and track and report demographic data. It also eliminates the doctrine of qualified immunity, outlaws the chokehold, prevents the rehiring

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of officers who are decertified or convicted of misconduct, creates a duty to intervene for officers who witness misconduct, and restricts the use of tear gas and rubber bullets during protests.

Repeal the Death Penalty*

[SB20-100](#) -- *Reps. Adrienne Benavidez and Jeni Arndt*

The death penalty is unjustly applied in practice, and cannot be corrected if a mistake occurs. After many years of advocacy and in pursuit of a more just system, the legislature repealed capital punishment with bipartisan support. The law will prohibit the death penalty for offenses charged on or after July 1, 2020.

Prohibit Courthouse Civil Arrests*

[SB20-083](#) -- *Rep. Leslie Herod*

Our communities should be able to access the justice system without fearing deportation simply by going to the courthouse and encountering ICE there. This bill protects individuals from civil arrest when they are at a courthouse or traveling to and from a court proceeding.

End Prison Gerrymandering*

[HB20-1010](#) -- *Reps. Kerry Tipper and James Coleman*

This bill improves our democracy and our political representation by helping ensure a more accurate census count. This bill clarifies that for the purposes of state redistricting, prisoners in correctional facilities are counted at their last residence in Colorado prior to incarceration.

Prohibit the Gay or Transgender Panic Defense*

[SB20-221](#) -- *Reps. Brianna Titone and Matt Soper*

This bill bans the gay and transgender panic defense, a legal strategy that has been used in criminal trials to justify a violent attack against someone based on the discovery of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Prohibiting this legal defense is a common sense way to strengthen LGBTQ rights here in Colorado, which is now the 11th state to outlaw the defense.

The CROWN Act*

[HB20-1048](#) -- *Reps. Leslie Herod and Janet Buckner*

According to research from the Crown Coalition, a Black woman is 80% more likely to change her natural hair to meet social norms or expectations at work and 50% more likely to be sent home or know of a black woman sent home from work because of her hair. The CROWN Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of hair texture or hair type, and protects hairstyles like dreadlocks, twists, tight coils or curls, cornrows, bantu knots, afros and headwraps.

Compensation for College Athletes*

[SB20-123](#) -- *Reps. James Coleman and Leslie Herod*

For decades, college athletes have been barred from earning compensation despite bringing in significant revenue to their universities. Beginning in 2023, this bill protects a student athlete's ability to be compensated for the use of their name, image or likeness, without affecting their scholarship eligibility. It also solidifies their right to professional and legal representation.

Replace Columbus Day with New State Holiday

[HB20-1031](#) -- *Reps. Adrienne Benavidez and Kyle Mullica*

As a state-sanctioned holiday, Columbus Day has perpetuated the pain and suffering that Christopher Columbus was responsible for inflicting upon thousands of indigenous people. This

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bill repeals that holiday and instead honors Frances Cabrini for her humanitarian values and lifelong dedication to service in Colorado, especially to the Italian American immigrant community which faced discrimination and difficulty as they immigrated to America.

Prison Population Reduction And Management*

[HB20-1019](#) -- Rep. Leslie Herod

Private prisons in Colorado keep a profit motive in the justice system and are less accountable than their public counterparts. This bill aims to reduce Colorado's dependence on private prisons by calling for a study on the best way to phase out their use. The bill also addresses prison population capacity by allowing the Department of Corrections to house up to 650 inmates at the Centennial South Correctional Facility in Cañon City with several reforms to improve conditions for inmates, among other provisions.

INCREASING HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY & ACCESS AND PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Expanding Health Insurance Affordability

[SB20-215](#) -- Reps. Chris Kennedy and Julie McCluskie

With Coloradans facing some of the highest health insurance costs in the country, Democrats have prioritized saving people money on their care. The Reinsurance program has lowered premiums by thousands of dollars for families across the state. The program has been an effective way to offset high-cost health care claims in order to lower premiums for consumers in the individual market. This bill establishes a sustainable funding structure to extend the Reinsurance program for an additional 5 years.

Nicotine Product Regulation*

[HB20-1001](#) -- Reps. Kyle Mullica and Colin Larson

Colorado has one of the highest youth vaping rates in the country. This bill raises the age of sale for all nicotine products to 21, requires nicotine product retailers to obtain a license, closes the online direct sales loophole, and increases enforcement to prevent underage sales.

Cost Savings for Small Community and Rural Pharmacies*

[HB20-1078](#) -- Reps. Kyle Mullica and Sonya Jaquez Lewis

Small rural communities face particularly high prescription drug costs. This bill requires pharmacy benefit management (PBM) firms to offer reasonable rates to community pharmacies.

Health Care Coverage Easy Enrollment Program*

[HB20-1236](#) -- Reps. Susan Lontine and Perry Will

Coloradans who lack health insurance will be given information about coverage options and health care enrollment assistance, thanks to this program that notifies individuals who may be eligible for free or subsidized health insurance based on their individual state income tax filings.

Allow Medicaid Buy-In After Age 65*

[SB20-033](#) -- Rep. Susan Lontine

* indicates that the bill passed with bipartisan support

Health insurance affordability is an acute challenge for older Coloradans with disabilities. This bill will allow them to participate in the existing Medicaid buy-in program, helping working adults with disabilities stay in their homes after age 65.

School Entry Immunization*

[SB20-163](#) -- *Reps. Kyle Mullica and Dylan Roberts*

Colorado has one of the lowest kindergarten immunization rates in the country. This bill requires parents who choose not to vaccinate their children to present a standardized exemption form signed by an immunization provider or submit a confirmation form that they took an online class about vaccinations before they send their children to school. It streamlines the immunization process while making no changes to who can choose to exempt their children.

Insurance Coverage for Infertility Diagnosis and Treatment*

[HB20-1158](#) -- *Reps. Kerry Tipper and Leslie Herod*

One in eight people struggle with infertility. This bill requires health insurance plans to cover infertility diagnosis and treatment, as well as fertility preservation services such as IVF.

HIV Prevention Medications*

[HB20-1061](#) -- *Reps. Alex Valdez and Leslie Herod*

Coloradans living with or at a high risk for HIV need access to preventative treatments like PrEP and PEP. This bill allows patients to go directly to a pharmacy to receive treatment after a brief consultation with a pharmacist, without prior authorization from insurance companies.

Equity In Access To Clinical Trials In Medicaid*

[HB20-1232](#) -- *Reps. Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Larry Liston*

This bill increases access to those trials for the prevention, detection, diagnosis, or treatment of life-threatening diseases by requiring Medicaid coverage for routine costs associated with participation in approved trials if a patient is eligible and chooses to participate.

CDPHE Inspections Of Penal Institutions*

[HB20-1409](#) -- *Reps. Adrienne Benavidez and Alec Garnett*

CDPHE annually inspects state penal institutions to ensure compliance with health and safety protections. This bill allows CDPHE to inspect private facilities such as those operated by GEO that house noncitizens, including minors, for civil immigration proceedings and specifically authorizes unannounced follow up inspections.

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Substance Use Disorder Prevention, Treatment & Recovery*

[HB20-1017](#), [HB20-1065](#), [HB20-1085](#), [SB20-028](#) -- *Reps. Chris Kennedy, Leslie Herod and Bri Buentello*

This package of bills addresses the continuing need to support Coloradans affected by opioid addictions and other substance use disorders (SUDs). Collectively, they provide continued SUD treatment for individuals in the criminal justice system; reduce the potential for secondary harm from infectious disease to individuals who inject opioids; add preventive insurance coverage for opioid alternatives such as physical or occupational therapy for pain control; and keep families together while pregnant women and new moms receive SUD medication-assisted treatment.

** indicates that the bill passed with bipartisan support*

Enhancements to Safe2Tell*

[HB20-1113](#) -- *Reps. Brianna Titone and Kevin Van Winkle*

The Safe2Tell program provides students a confidential way to report and talk with someone about behavioral health issues and is a national model for crisis intervention. This bill requires the Safe2Tell program to develop educational marketing materials about the use of Safe2Tell targeted to educators and students, as well as training materials for call responders outlining appropriate responses to Safe2Tell tips. It also requires state agencies and stakeholders to better streamline the coordination of communications about mental health or substance abuse received through Safe2Tell with the statewide behavioral crisis response system.

Excused Mental Health Absences in Public Schools*

[SB20-014](#) -- *Reps. Dafna Michaelson Jenet and Lisa Cutter*

The state of youth mental health tells us behavioral health concerns can be just as serious as physical health concerns. This bill seeks to remove stigma by allowing schools to include excused absences for behavioral health concerns in their attendance policies.

GROWING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Opportunity to Purchase for Mobile Home Owners*

[HB20-1201](#) -- *Reps. Edie Hooton and Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez*

Over 100,000 Coloradans live in mobile homes, the state's largest unsubsidized source of affordable housing. This bill creates a pathway for mobile home residents to join together to purchase the land under their communities. If a park is for sale, owners are required to give residents 90 days notice and enter into good faith negotiations if they're interested in purchase.

Rights for Mobile Home Park Residents*

[HB20-1196](#) -- *Reps. Edie Hooton and Julie McCluskie*

This bill further strengthens tenants' rights by preventing park owners from retaliating against residents for filing a complaint, and prohibits them from removing residents from their homes over minor violations. It requires transparency in utility billing and secures a right to tenant privacy by requiring owners to give notice and obtain consent before entering.

Fairness in Eviction Court Records*

[HB20-1009](#) -- *Rep. Dominique Jackson*

Right now, having an eviction filing on one's record--even if that filing is eventually dismissed--makes it difficult to find housing without facing discrimination. This bill automatically suppresses court records while eviction proceedings are ongoing, keeping these records private until they are final, and removes a court record from public view if the filing is dismissed.

Protecting Against Discrimination in Housing*

[HB20-1332](#) -- *Reps. Leslie Herod and Dominique Jackson*

[SB20-224](#) -- *Rep. Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez*

At a time when half a million Coloradans have filed for unemployment benefits or are relying on non-wage income to make ends meet, it is critical that they not be denied housing solely due to the type of income that is keeping their family economically secure. These bills protect renters from being denied housing based on non-traditional income, such as child support and veterans

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or unemployment benefits, and prohibits landlords from requesting information on citizenship status from tenants or refusing to rent to a prospective tenant due to their citizenship status.

PRESERVING OUR AIR, WATER, AND PUBLIC LANDS

Additional Resources To Protect Air Quality*

[SB20-204](#) -- *Reps. Dominique Jackson and Yadira Caraveo*

High levels of air pollutants are a threat to public health. This bill brings the state closer into compliance with federal ozone standards, mitigating the health risks associated with poor air quality that puts Coloradans at greater risk for respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 and asthma.

Increasing Air and Water Environmental Protection Enforcement*

[HB20-1143](#) -- *Reps. Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez and Dominique Jackson*

This bill holds polluters accountable by raising the daily state fines for air and water violations and gives the Attorney General and local District Attorneys the authority to enforce violations.

Promote and Preserve Colorado State Parks*

[SB20-003](#) -- *Reps. Daneya Esgar and Perry Will*

By investing in the development of a new state park, Fishers Peak, this bill will bring meaningful economic growth and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities to Southern Colorado.

Eligibility Expansion for Wildfire Grants*

[HB20-1057](#) -- *Reps. Julie McCluskie and Terri Carver*

Rural communities in Colorado are at high risk for wildfires. This bill changes the program to ensure that households in greater need of wildfire mitigation assistance can take advantage of these grants.

Protection from Harmful PFAS Chemicals*

[HB20-1119](#) -- *Reps. Tony Exum, Sr. and Lois Landgraf*

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl, or PFAS, are chemical substances in firefighting foam that are harmful to public health. This bipartisan bill creates clear guidelines for the use, testing and disposal of PFAS foam to limit contamination of our groundwater or expose firefighters to toxic chemicals.

Increase Public Protection from Toxic Chemical Emissions*

[HB20-1265](#) -- *Reps. Adrienne Benavidez and Alex Valdez*

Families who live nearby to refineries have been exposed to hazardous air toxics, often without being made aware by the polluting facilities. This bill requires the facilities to use an emergency notification service to inform the local communities when emission incidents occur.

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS & FIRST RESPONDERS

Raise Pay for National Guard*

[SB20-091](#) -- *Reps. Tony Exum, Sr. and Richard Holtorf*

This bill boosts the base rate of pay for the Colorado National Guard when they're called to serve during emergencies from \$20 to \$88 a day, in recognition of their service in times of disaster.

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In-State Tuition at Community Colleges for Veterans*

[HB20-1275](#) -- Rep. Bri Buentello

We must honor the contributions and sacrifices of our United States servicemembers. Active duty or honorably discharged members of the armed forces, or their dependents, will now be eligible for in-state tuition at community colleges in our state regardless of Colorado residency.

Identification Of Veteran Remains For Proper Military Burial*

[HB20-1051](#) -- Reps. Monica Duran and Janice Rich

The bill will ensure that more of our nation's veterans receive a proper military burial by allowing veteran service organizations to identify remains and requiring funeral facilities to then transfer them to a national or state veterans cemetery.

Disabled Veterans and National Guard Parks & Wildlife Benefits*

[SB20-069](#) -- Rep. Bri Buentello

[SB20-041](#) -- Rep. Alec Garnett

These bills expand benefits for disabled veterans and active members of the National Guard to access our state parks free of charge, in recognition of their service to our state and country.

Ensuring Access to Benefits for First Responders*

[SB20-057](#) -- Reps. Marc Snyder and Lisa Cutter

[SB20-026](#) -- Reps. Jonathan Singer and Tony Exum, Sr.

These bills help ensure that first responders and emergency personnel are treated fairly when they become ill or experience trauma as a result of their service. Wildland firefighters in the Division of Fire Prevention and Control will now have insurance coverage for heart conditions and certain types of cancers directly related to the strenuous activities of their job. Emergency workers such as 9-1-1 operators who struggle with PTSD as a result of visual or audible psychological trauma on the job will now be able to access workers compensation coverage.

Department Of Military And Veterans Affairs Awards*

[SB20-082](#) -- Reps. Susan Lontine and Lois Landgraf

The bill creates the Colorado Legion of Merit medal, which would be awarded to any person who has rendered service in a clearly exceptional, unprecedented or superior manner.

TERRIBLE GOP BILLS THAT DEMOCRATS PREVENTED FROM BECOMING LAW

Legalizing Marriage & Adoption Discrimination Against the LGBTQ Community

[HB20-1272](#)

This bill would have stopped marriage licenses from being provided to LGBTQ couples, and limited adoption to only prospective parents whose marriage consists of one man and one woman, prohibiting LGBTQ couples from adopting children.

Penalizing Doctors for Gender-Affirming Care

[HB20-1114](#)

This bill would have imprisoned doctors and other health care providers for following best medical practices and existing standards of medical care for transgender patients, standards

* indicates that the bill passed with bipartisan support

that are endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. It would have made providing gender-affirming health care--often lifesaving care--for a young person a class three felony, which has a maximum sentence of up to 12 years in prison in Colorado.

Allowing Discrimination in Youth Sports

[HB20-1273](#)

This legislation would have prevented transwomen athletes in middle and high school from participating on sports teams that correspond with their gender identity. It would have required invasive questions and medical tests if a student's sex is in question, requiring the student to prove that their assigned sex at birth based on a signed physician's statement with information about the student's reproductive anatomy and levels of naturally occurring testosterone. It would also have required a chromosome analysis just for a student to play sports in school.

Sanctioning Discrimination

[HB20-1033](#)

The bill would have codified discrimination by allowing any business to deny services based on sexual orientation or gender expression, allowing LGBTQ couples to be turned away from any establishment in the state simply for who they are. The bill was a blatant attempt to undermine protections against discrimination in workplaces, housing and places of accommodation.

Prohibition On A Woman's Right to a Safe Abortion

[HB20-1098](#)

This bill would have infringed on a woman's right to choose, denying essential health care to Colorado women and those who now must travel here for access to reproductive health care that they can no longer get closer to home.

Allowing Handguns On School Grounds

[HB20-1040](#)

House Democrats defeated this dangerous gun legislation, which would have allowed concealed firearms on school campuses and made our schools less safe. Research shows that access to a firearm triples the risk of suicide and doubles the risk of a homicide occurring. Increasing the number of guns in schools is not the answer to school safety.

Repealing Colorado's Lifesaving High Capacity Magazine Prohibition

[HB20-1099](#)

House Democrats also defeated a second dangerous gun bill that would have allowed the sale of high capacity magazines, like the one used in the Aurora shooting. Research on mass shooting incidents where data was collected on magazine size found that 58% of these incidents involved firearms with high-capacity magazines. There were twice as many fatalities and 14 times as many injuries in shootings where high-capacity magazines were involved.

Repealing Colorado's Widely Supported Red Flag Gun Violence Prevention Law

[HB20-1271](#)

Democrats stopped House Republicans' dangerous efforts to repeal the landmark 2019 Extreme Risk Protection Order law, which saves lives by limiting firearm access for those a judge deems a risk to themselves or others. After being in effect for just a few months, this law has likely already saved many lives in Colorado.

** indicates that the bill passed with bipartisan support*