The 2020 Legislative Session was a remarkable, bipartisan salute to the health and wellbeing of all Coloradans. Out of an unprecedented pandemic, a truncated session, and with a bewildering pace, came one of the most successful legislative sessions for public health in the past decade. Bold solutions that increase access to affordable care, promote health equity, and build healthier communities made it to the Governor’s desk - largely bipartisan and largely driven by legislators with a proven record of fighting for Coloradans and their health.

We started the 2020 legislative session with an ambitious agenda, and we ended it by accomplishing even more than originally planned. The coronavirus pandemic presented many hurdles to the legislative process, but it also helped highlight for legislators the need to act on public health policy. Healthier Colorado believes that holding legislators accountable through shining a light on the policies they support and oppose is an effective way to achieve long-term, systemic advancements for public health. Our annual legislative scorecard is the central piece of this ongoing strategy.

On this scorecard, you can see for yourself who decided to stand up for public health and health equity, and who did not. In the midst of a global pandemic and an urgent call to address racism, this information is more important than ever. Even though you might hear this sentiment every election cycle, I truly believe this November’s election will be the most important one in my lifetime. I hope this tool helps you decide who deserves your vote, as we have so much at stake in determining what type of future we want in Colorado.

Jake Williams
Executive Director
Healthier Colorado

The mission of Healthier Colorado is to ensure all people have the opportunity to live a healthy life. We cannot reach this goal without pro-health policies at the Capitol and elected officials who put the health of Coloradans first. Throughout this scorecard, we recognize several elected officials for their leadership and hard work in a number of categories.

WHO ARE OUR STATE LEGISLATORS
An elected official is a person that you choose, through your vote, to represent you in local, state, and federal government. This position is not promised, it is earned. One hundred state legislators - 65 Representatives and 35 Senators - represent you at the state capitol throughout the 120 day annual legislative session. Every day these individuals have an immense amount of influence over the laws that impact your ability to lead a healthy life.

STAR RANKING
We rate every elected official based on their sponsorship, co-sponsorship, and votes on pro-health bills. The more a legislator sponsored and voted on the bills we scored, the more stars they received. The highest star ranking an elected official can earn is five stars. Elected officials who sponsor our Tier 1 bills are scored higher because they’ve demonstrated a strong desire to invest their time and efforts to pass a bill – more than committing to a vote.

TIER RANKING
As mighty as we may be, we can’t devote 100% of our resources to every pro-health bill that is introduced. Instead, we tier bills to determine the level of support we are able to provide. We use the following standards to categorize the bills:

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<th>Tier</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tier 1:</td>
<td>Healthier Colorado was present for the creation of the policy, expended all available resources to pass the bill, and was deeply involved in the legislative strategy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tier 2:</td>
<td>Healthier Colorado supports the policy, stakeholder group, and legislative campaign, but were not intimately involved in the strategy and/or creation of the policy. Limited resources may be expended to support the campaign.</td>
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<td>Tier 3:</td>
<td>Healthier Colorado endorsed the policy and legislative campaign and spent a brief amount of time supporting the advancement of the policy.</td>
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LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE
Our Legislative Leadership Circle features elected officials who supported each of the 29 bills we scored. To be a member of our leadership circle, a legislator must vote on the side of health on every bill Healthier Colorado scored.
Every Coloradan deserves access to affordable, quality health care. High costs of care, inadequate or no insurance options, and lack of community services bar entry to our health system for many people in need of care. This year legislators worked tirelessly on bills to improve access and coverage to mental health wellness sessions, provide equitable coverage for preventative care and specific diseases, and introduced a bold new Colorado state insurance option that would have provided Coloradans with more affordable coverage on the individual market. Although many of these bills were postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic and budget shortfalls - these policies represent bold solutions that will no doubt be back in future legislative sessions to provide all Coloradans with equitable coverage to quality health care.

**KEY BILLS**

**STATE HEALTH INSURANCE OPTION**

**HB20-1349**

**Sponsors:** Representative Roberts, Representative Kennedy, Senator Donovan  
**Pro-health Position:** Support  
**Final Action:** Postponed Indefinitely  
**Summary:** Across Colorado, many individuals suffer from high health care costs. This is especially true for Coloradans living in one of the 22 counties where there is a single insurer available for those who purchase on the individual market. This has forced individuals to pay uncompetitive and higher costs to get insurance coverage. This bill would have provided an innovative opportunity for a Colorado State option that would have provided Coloradans the opportunity to purchase a more affordable health care coverage option on the individual market.

**PREVENTATIVE CARE & EQUITABLE COVERAGE**

**SB20-156 / HB20-1158**

**Sponsors:** SB20-156: Representative Esgar, Representative Mullica, Senator Pettersen, Senator Moreno  
**HB20-1158: Representative Tipper, Representative Herod, Senator Winter, Senator Fenberg  
**Pro-health Position:** Support  
**Final Action:** SB20-156 (Postponed Indefinitely), HB20-1158 (Passed)  
**Summary:** Both SB20-156 and HB20-1158 represent the need for equitable and expanded coverage of different diagnoses, and ensure all Coloradans have coverage for preventative screenings that can save lives and health care dollars. HB20-1158 improved care by requiring coverage for in vitro fertilization, fertility preservation for people at risk of infertility as a result of a medical condition or treatment, and also expanded access to coverage for Coloradans in the individual and group markets. SB20-156 would have codified a number of existing copay-free preventive care benefits required under the ACA into Colorado law, ranging from blood pressure, osteoporosis, and lung cancer screenings, to birth control coverage. These types of preventative care measures are important because they allow Coloradans to stay healthy and access treatment when necessary.

**MENTAL HEALTH EXAM COVERAGE**

**HB20-1086**

**Sponsors:** Representative Michaelson Jenet, Representative Larson, Senator Fields  
**Pro-health Position:** Support  
**Final Action:** Postponed Indefinitely  
**Summary:** Prevention and early identification of mental health issues can lead to better outcomes for Colorado families and all individuals throughout their lives. This bill would have required mandated coverage of an annual mental health wellness exam conducted by a qualified mental health care provider.
Senate Republicans
1. Don Coram
2. Kevin Priola
3. Larry Crowder

Senate Democrats
1. Kerry Donovan
2. Steve Fenberg
3. Joann Ginal

House Republicans
1. Matt Soper
2. Mark Baisley (tie)
2. Terri Carver (tie)
2. Lois Landgraf (tie)
2. Colin Larson (tie)

House Democrats
1. Chris Kennedy
2. Julie McCluskie
3. Dylan Roberts

HB20-1008 concerning protections for consumers who participate in health care cost-sharing arrangements

HB20-1017 concerning treatment of individuals with substance use disorders who come into contact with the criminal justice system

HB20-1086 concerning health insurance coverage for an annual mental health wellness examination

HB20-1158 concerning insurance coverage for infertility

HB20-1160 concerning measures to reduce health care costs related to prescription drug prices

HB20-1198 concerning requirements regarding the administration of prescription drug benefits under health benefit plans

HB20-1349 concerning the Colorado option plan to create more affordable health benefit plans

SB20-119 concerning expanding the Canadian prescription drug importation program

SB20-156 concerning services related to preventative health care and requiring coverage for certain preventative measures, screenings, and treatments that are administered, dispensed, or prescribed by health care providers and facilities

* pictured

Women aged 25-35 report average debt of $30,000 for fertility treatment.
While we strive to ensure every Coloradan has the chance to live a healthy life, there are drastic disparities across the state – simple factors like zip code, family income, or race, form barriers to receive the opportunities we all deserve. For the first time, every Colorado employee will have the opportunity to earn paid sick time and amid the coronavirus pandemic with depleted resources, lawmakers found an innovative solution to reduce health insurance premiums for Colorado families and residents without proper documentation. Legislators are also continuing efforts to connect people with the mental health supports they need and deserve while striving to navigate people away from the criminal justice system. These bills all aimed to reduce disparities by helping groups that have often faced the most intense obstacles when trying to lead a dignified, fulfilling life.

**KEY BILLS**

**MENTAL HEALTH & THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM** SB20-042  
**Sponsors:** Representative Singer, Senator Fields, Senator Rodriguez  
**Pro-health Position:** Support  
**Final Action:** Passed  
**Summary:** SB20-042 extends the repeal date for the legislative oversight committee concerning the treatment of individuals with behavioral health disorders in the criminal and juvenile justice system, and the associated task force. The task force represents a unique space with diverse criminal justice, mental health, individuals with lived experience, and advocacy representation for cross-system collaboration and communication to reduce the number of persons with mental health and behavioral health disorders who are involved in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

**EARNED PAID SICK TIME** SB20-205  
**Sponsors:** Representative Caraveo, Representative Becker, Senator Fenberg, Senator Bridges  
**Pro-health Position:** Support  
**Final Action:** Passed  
**Summary:** In Colorado, approximately 2 out of 5 employees, or over 800,000 people, lack access to even one paid sick day. Those least likely to have earned paid sick days are people in the service industry: the people who serve us food, stock our shelves, clean our public spaces, and care for us. This bill gives all hardworking Coloradans the opportunity to earn paid sick time. Employees accrue 1 hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked and can earn up to 48 hours (6 days) that can be used in a calendar year. When people can earn paid sick days, families can take the time they need, and businesses see higher productivity.

**INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY & ACCESS** SB20-215  
**Sponsors:** Representative McCluskie, Representative Kennedy, Senator Donovan, Senator Moreno  
**Pro-health Position:** Support  
**Final Action:** Passed  
**Summary:** This bill allows Colorado to collect an existing fee to invest in a state program and reduces insurance costs for people paying the most for their health care. The monies generated by the fee will ensure there is ongoing funding for Colorado’s successful reinsurance program, which reduced individual market premiums by 20 percent its first year and was an essential support to rural Coloradans. It will also make insurance more affordable for low-income consumers by providing extra funding to pay for their high premiums on the individual market. Additionally, it will expand coverage for up to 200,000 Coloradans who have been left out of the Affordable Care Act, including people who lack proper documentation and those in the “family glitch.” Because of 215, Coloradans will see a monumental impact in their access to quality, affordable health care.
Senate Democrats
1. Jeff Bridges*
2. Rhonda Fields
3. Kerry Donovan (tie)
3. Steve Fenberg (tie)
3. Dominick Moreno (tie)
3. Robert Rodríguez (tie)

House Democrats
1. Julie McCluskie*
2. KC Becker (tie)
2. Yadira Caraveo (tie)
2. Chris Kennedy (tie)
2. Jonathan Singer (tie)

Senate Republicans
1. Jack Tate*
2. John Cooke (tie)
2. Don Coram (tie)
2. Larry Crowder (tie)
2. Bob Gardner (tie)
2. Kevin Priola (tie)
2. Bob Rankin (tie)

House Republicans
1. Kevin Van Winkle (tie)*
1. Perry Will (tie)*
3. Lois Landgraf

BILLS SCORED

**HB20-1006** concerning creation of a statewide program of early childhood mental health consultation

**HB20-1009** concerning suppressing court records of eviction proceedings

**HB20-1236** concerning a health coverage enrollment program that uses information gathered from state individual income tax return forms to aid uninsured individuals in obtaining health care coverage

**SB20-001** concerning expanding behavioral health training kindergarten through twelfth-grade educators

**SB20-042** concerning the treatment of persons with behavioral health disorders in the criminal and juvenile justice systems

**SB20-161** concerning pretrial release and requiring a pretrial release assessment process, an administrative order for immediate pretrial release without monetary conditions, and a pretrial services program

**SB20-205** concerning the requirement that employers offer sick leave to their employees

**SB20-215** concerning measures to address the affordability of insurance for Coloradans on the individual market

**SB20-217** concerning measures to enhance law enforcement integrity

* pictured

**An Act**

Bridging the Gap

200,000+ Coloradans will now benefit from cheaper health insurance. Colorado is the first in the country to provide a coverage option for individuals without proper documentation.

* pictured
Healthy Communities

All of Colorado’s communities deserve the same chance at living a healthy life. Our lawmakers have the power to put the communities throughout our state on equal footing—or to let some communities fall behind. This year legislators worked to tackle Colorado’s highest-in-the-nation teen vaping rates and lowest-in-the-nation kindergarten MMR vaccine rates. Creating healthy opportunities and increasing access to healthy choices are a crucial part of preventive care, and these bills worked to make it easier for Coloradans to be safe and healthy. By enacting commonsense, community-wide changes, we can see better health outcomes for our entire state.

KEY BILLS

TOBACCO CONTROL PACKAGE
HB20-1001, HB20-1319, HB20-1427

Sponsors:
- HB20-1001: Representative Mullica, Representative Larson, Senator Bridges, Senator Priola
- HB20-1319: Representative Caraveo, Representative Becker, Senator Fields, Senator Priola
- HB20-1427: Representative Caraveo, Representative McCluskie, Senator Fields, Senator Moreno

Pro-health Position: Support

Final Action:
- HB20-1001: Passed
- HB1319: Postponed indefinitely
- HB1427: Passed

Summary: Colorado leads the nation in teen nicotine use with over a quarter of our high-school-aged youth vaping. This package of tobacco control bills are specifically designed to protect Colorado’s youth by decreasing access and utilization of these deadly products. From holding retailers accountable for selling to minors, removing the state possession penalty, closing the online sales loophole for purchase, asking voters to raise the price of tobacco products, to attempting to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products, these bills are all evidence-based approaches to reduce access and use to protect our kids and their lifelong health.

VACCINES FOR SCHOOL ENTRY
SB20-163

Sponsors: Representative Mullica, Representative Roberts, Senator Gonzales, Senator Priola

Pro-health Position: Support

Final Action: Passed

Summary: Currently in Colorado, we rank last in the nation with only 87% of kindergarten-aged children having received vaccines for diseases like measles, mumps, and rubella. This lower rate means that Coloradans are not protected through herd immunity, putting people with compromised immune systems and kids who are too young to be vaccinated at risk. This bill will improve Colorado’s vaccination rates by streamlining and standardizing the school vaccine entry process, so that we can better protect members of our communities who are most at risk against vaccine-preventable diseases.

HARM REDUCTION FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS
HB20-1065

Sponsors: Representative Kennedy, Representative Herod, Senator Pettersen, Senator Priola

Pro-health Position: Support

Final Action: Passed

Summary: Colorado continues to fight the ongoing opioid crisis. This bill expands access to effective measures that reduce harm caused by opioid disorders. This bill will increase Coloradans’ access to life-saving opiate antagonists, access to clean syringe needles through pharmacists, and will extend civil and criminal immunity for a person acting in good faith by administering an expired opiate antagonist to someone they believed was experiencing an overdose. This bill will improve the health of Coloradans by reducing the spread of disease through contaminated needles and ensuring they stay alive.

91,000 kids in Colorado will die prematurely due to smoking.
LEGISLATOR WINNERS | HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Senate Republicans
1. Kevin Priola
2. Don Coram
3. Jack Tate

Senate Democrats
1. Rhonda Fields*
2. Jeff Bridges (tie)
2. Julie Gonzales (tie)
2. Dominick Moreno (tie)

House Republicans
1. Colin Larson*
2. James Wilson
3. Richard Holtorf

House Democrats
1. Yadira Caraveo (tie)*
1. Kyle Mullica (tie)*
3. KC Becker (tie)
3. Julie McCluskie (tie)
3. Dylan Roberts (tie)

BILLS SCORED

HB20-1001 concerning nicotine product regulation
HB20-1063 (oppose) concerning fundamental family rights in Colorado
HB20-1065 concerning the use of measures that do not involve schedule I controlled substances to reduce the harm caused by substance use disorders
HB20-1144 (oppose) concerning the creation of a parent’s bill of rights
HB20-1239 (oppose) concerning measures to protect consumers regarding vaccinations
HB20-1312 concerning behavioral health training requirements for educator licensure
HB20-1319 concerning a prohibition against the sale of flavored nicotine products
HB20-1427 concerning the taxation of products that contain nicotine
SB20-007 concerning treatment for substance use disorders
SB20-084 (oppose) concerning a prohibition against requiring employees to be vaccinated
SB20-163 concerning the modernization of the school entry immunization process

63% of Colorado students are in schools without full protection from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Healthy Communities

Smoking costs Colorado $1.89 billion, annually in healthcare costs.

*pictured
Our Legislative Leadership Circle features elected officials who supported each of the 29 bills we scored. To be a member of our leadership circle, elected officials are scored on the percentage of votes they took on pro-health policies. Elected officials who received a 100% voting record have earned their place in Healthier Colorado’s Legislative Leadership Circle and we are honored to recognize them as true health champions.

**Legislative Leadership Circle**

**SENATORS**

Jeff Bridges
Jessie Danielson
Kerry Donovan
Steve Fenberg
Rhonda Fields
Mike Foote
Leroy Garcia

Joann Ginal
Julie Gonzales
Chris Hansen
Pete Lee
Dominick Moreno
Brittany Pettersen
Robert Rodríguez

Tammy Story
Nancy Todd
Angela Williams
Faith Winter
Rachel Zenzinger

**REPRESENTATIVES**

Jeni Arndt
KC Becker
Shannon Bird
Janet Buckner
Bri Buentello
Yadira Caraveo
James Coleman
Lisa Cutter
Monica Duran
Daneya Esgar
Tony Exum
Meg Froelich
Alec Garnett

Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez
Leslie Herod
Edie Hooton
Dominique Jackson
Sonya Jaquez Lewis
Chris Kennedy
Cathy Kipp
Susan Lontine
Julie McCluskie
Barbara McClachlan
Dafna Michaelson Jenet
Kyle Mullica
Dylan Roberts

Jonathan Singer
Emily Sirota
Marc Snyder
Tom Sullivan
Kerry Tipper
Brianna Titone
Mike Weissman
Steven Woodrow
Mary Young
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Final Bills Scored

**TIER 1**
- HB20-1001 concerning nicotine product regulation
- HB20-1160 concerning measures to reduce health care costs related to prescription drug prices
- HB20-1319 concerning a prohibition against the sale of flavored nicotine products
- HB20-1349 concerning the Colorado option plan to create more affordable health benefit plans
- HB20-1427 concerning the taxation of products that contain nicotine
- SB20-042 concerning the treatment of persons with behavioral health disorders in the criminal and juvenile justice systems
- SB20-163 concerning the modernization of the school entry immunization process
- SB20-205 concerning the requirement that employers offer sick leave to their employees
- SB20-215 concerning measures to address the affordability of insurance for Coloradans on the individual market

**TIER 2**
- HB20-1158 concerning insurance coverage for infertility
- HB20-1236 concerning a health coverage enrollment program that uses information gathered from state individual income tax return forms to aid uninsured individuals in obtaining health care coverage.
- SB20-001 concerning expanding behavioral health training kindergarten through twelfth-grade educators
- SB20-007 concerning treatment for substance use disorders
- SB20-217 concerning measures to enhance law enforcement integrity

**TIER 3**
- HB20-1006 concerning creation of a statewide program of early childhood mental health consultation
- HB20-1008 concerning protections for consumers who participate in health care cost
- HB20-1009 concerning suppressing court records of eviction proceedings sharing arrangements
- HB20-1017 concerning treatment of individuals with substance use disorders who come into contact with the criminal justice system
- HB20-1055 concerning the use of measures that do not involve Schedule I controlled substances to reduce the harm caused by substance use disorders
- HB20-1086 concerning health insurance coverage for an annual mental health wellness examination
- HB20-1198 concerning requirements the administration of prescription drug benefits under health benefit plans
- HB20-1312 concerning behavioral health training requirements for educator licensure
- HB20-1319 concerning expanding the Canadian prescription drug importation program
- SB20-156 concerning services related to preventative health care and requiring coverage for certain preventative measures, screenings, and treatments
- SB20-161 concerning pretrial release and a pretrial release assessment process, an administrative order for immediate pretrial release without monetary conditions, and a pretrial services program.

**OPPOSED**
- HB20-1063 (oppose) concerning fundamental family rights in Colorado
- HB20-1144 (oppose) concerning the creation of a parent’s bill of rights
- HB20-1239 (oppose) concerning measures to protect consumers regarding vaccinations
- SB20-084 (oppose) concerning a prohibition against requiring employees to be vaccinated

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**Methodology for awarding points:**
- Only votes with a recorded third reading were scored for the entire General Assembly
- Points for sponsorships are included regardless of a third reading vote taking place.
- Sponsorship of a Healthier Colorado Tier 1 Bill = +3 points
- Sponsorship of a Healthier Colorado Tier 2 Bill = +1 points
- Sponsorship of a Healthier Colorado Tier 3 Bill = +0.333 points
- Votes aligned with a prohealth position = +0.333 points
- Votes against a prohealth position resulted in no points being awarded
- Votes occurring when legislators were excused or absent were not included in their final score.
What is HAWC?

Healthy Air and Water Colorado, fondly referred to as “HAWC”, is a project of Healthier Colorado. HAWC advocates for public policy that focuses exclusively on the growing public health threats posed by climate change. We know that worsening air quality, rising temperatures and threats to water availability and quality – all products of climate change – have profound impacts on human health, particularly for our most vulnerable community members like those with existing health issues and children. While the rest of our Healthier Colorado work focuses on broadly mobilizing grassroots Coloradans, our charge with this project is to engage health care professionals, including frontline health care providers who see and treat the real health issues caused by our changing environment.

Why Healthier Colorado?

Serve as an authentic, informed voice for health.
Our perspective differs from that of environmental organizations in that our focus is squarely on health. Given our health focus and the relationships and resources we’ve built, we are able to add a voice that is truly concerned about health and one that can draw from the expertise of health professionals to thoughtfully inform the conversation around climate change.

Proceed without a partisan agenda.
As in the rest of our work, we apply the ethic of having no permanent friends or enemies, only champions willing to promote prohealth policies. Despite the often partisan nature of climate-related policy, we remain committed to shedding light on this growing public health crisis that impacts everyone and will for generations to come if we don’t act now.

What kinds of bills did HAWC support in 2020?

HAWC worked in partnership with other groups to advance legislation to hold accountable the state’s worst air and water polluters. Even through the pandemic, a package of bills advanced and became law aimed at requiring polluters to pay larger fines for repeated violations, requiring clear notice to nearby communities when a toxic emission has occurred and enhancing emissions monitoring at the state level. Because communities most impacted by these polluters are often communities of color as well as those experiencing poverty, the passage of these bills sends a clear message that environmental justice will be part of ongoing systemic reform efforts. Their passage also shows the importance and effectiveness of having health professionals’ voices represented in the climate discussion. Our network sent hundreds of emails to lawmakers to help get these bills over the finish line.

While the bills referenced are not included in our main body of scoring, we want to thank every legislator who supported these measures, especially the sponsors, who are as follows:

**HB 20-1143** Concerning additional public health protections regarding alleged environmental violations, and, in connection therewith, raising the maximum fines for air quality and water quality violations
Rep. Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez

**HB 20-1265** Concerning increased public protections from emissions of air toxics
Rep. Alex Valdez Sen. Julie Gonzales

**SB 20-204** Concerning the provision of additional resources to protect air quality, and, in connection therewith, increasing fees, creating the air quality enterprise
Rep. Dominique Jackson Sen. Steve Fenberg
Rep. Yadira Caraveo
EVERY COLORADAN SHOULD HAVE A FAIR CHANCE AT LIVING A HEALTHY LIFE.

NOW YOU KNOW THE SCORE.

Take action at healthiercolorado.org