

HEALTHIER COLORADO'S

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD 2024



HEALTHIER™
COLORADO



A NOTE FROM THE CEO

WELCOME

to Healthier Colorado's 7th Legislative Scorecard. To ensure our elected officials were accountable to the people they represented when it came to issues that impact our health and well-being, we published our first edition in 2018. While each legislative session is unique, there are a few patterns to our Scorecard that I've recognized over the years.

First, it's rare that our top winners are the same year after year. This reflects the way that Healthier Colorado tackles legislative campaigns. We are always willing to work with anyone who wants to improve the health and well-being of their communities, regardless of political affiliation. This year, we partnered with five new legislators who had not previously been a prime sponsor for a bill we were championing. This is in line with the motto that has guided our work since the inception of this organization. **"No permanent friends, no permanent enemies, only permanent interests."** Our focus is always on the mission, and we've continued to partner with a diverse array of legislators over the years in pursuit of giving every Coloradan the chance to live a healthier life.

Next, while the categories have remained the same, the bills we score are usually very different from year to year. We've worked on issues including nicotine regulation, creating a Colorado health insurance option, decriminalizing mental health issues, affordable housing, criminal justice reform, equitable access to higher education, the public health threats of social media, early childhood education and affordable child care, and securing new Medicaid waivers to pay for nutrition and housing. Our agenda is broad and diverse, but it isn't random. Our health is influenced by a great number of factors, most of which actually occur outside the doctor's office. We select campaigns based on factors including an assessment of evolving challenges to the well-being of Coloradans, as well as an evaluation of what is politically possible in a given legislative session. So you'll see new topic areas in our scorecard from one year to the next, but there is definitely a line of continuity that has guided us since we started.

Lastly, there's the flip side of that pattern – you may notice that we revisit an issue over time. This is often because we don't always get 100% of what we've set out to accomplish in a single session. Big change sometimes requires multiple proverbial bites at the apple. This year, for example, we passed legislation to improve the process and scope of sealing records for non-violent offenses so more Coloradans exiting the criminal justice system could have a fair, second chance at employment and housing. That bill was a follow-up to one we led to passage in 2022 that enabled the sealing of records for 100,000 Coloradans. Similarly, Healthy Air and Water Colorado took a step forward last year on addressing ozone pollution, and then came back this year to take an even bigger one.

You should also take note of the wide bipartisan support for our agenda as you dig into the Scorecard. This isn't an accident, we believe that health should not be a partisan issue, and we follow through on that belief when we execute our campaigns. Happy reading, and let me know what you think of this year's health champions.

Sincerely,

Jake Williams
CEO, Healthier Colorado

BECOMING A HEALTH CHAMPION

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. 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:

TIER 1	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.
TIER 2	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.
TIER 3	Healthier Colorado endorsed the policy and legislative campaign and spent a brief amount of time supporting the advancement of the policy.

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Our Legislative Leadership Circle features elected officials whose positions aligned with Healthier Colorado on each of the **40 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.



CARE ACCESS



Because SBHCs are located in schools, factors such as **transportation issues, parent availability, and missed appointments** are greatly reduced.

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 to address those barriers and increase access to care by making the Colorado youth mental health services program, known as I Matter, permanent, increasing access to school-based health care, and prohibiting the state Medicaid program from requiring prior authorization for antipsychotic prescription drugs used to treat mental health disorders.

KEY BILLS

CONTINUE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM SB24-001

Sponsors: Sen. Cutter, Sen. Michaelson Jenet, Rep. Brown, Rep. Rutinel

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: I Matter is an innovative program that provides Colorado students with up to six free sessions of virtual counseling with a licensed therapist, greatly expanding access to vital mental health care for Colorado youth regardless of background or geographic location. I Matter was initially a temporary program that was made permanent by SB24-001 in the Behavioral Health Administration and allocates \$ 11.1 million in funding to the program each year.

The I Matter program has served over **12,000** youth and has provided over **50,000** sessions.

INCREASE ACCESS TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CARE SB24-037

Sponsors: Sen. Kolker, Sen. Marchman, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Lindsay

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: School-based health centers (SBHCs) are a critical access point to comprehensive, integrated health care for students and their families, especially those who are uninsured or living in high-need areas of our State. SBHCs provide primary care, behavioral health care, health education, oral health care, and insurance enrollment. Currently SBHCs are funded by the School Based Health Center Grant Program through the Colorado Department of Education, and this bill expands services eligible for grant funding to include school-linked services, including telehealth and mobile health units.

MEDICAID PRIOR AUTHORIZATION PROHIBITION SB24-110

Sponsors: Sen. Kirkmeyer, Sen. Rodriguez, Rep. Amabile, Rep. Sirota

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: Antipsychotics serve as a cornerstone in the treatment of serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, and bipolar disorder. When left untreated, these conditions significantly impact individuals' overall health and quality of life. SB24-110 removes unnecessary barriers in accessing antipsychotic medication by reforming step therapy requirements and expediting the process for prescription approval in order to reduce delays in care for Coloradans who use Medicaid. Removing these barriers is vital to ensuring streamlined access to mental health treatment at the appropriate level of care.



CARE ACCESS

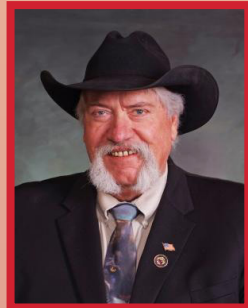


LEGISLATOR WINNERS CARE ACCESS



Senate Democrats

1. Kyle Mullica *
2. Dafna Michaelson Jenet
3. Janice Marchman



Senate Republicans

1. Perry Will *
2. Barbara Kirkmeyer
3. Cleave Simpson



House Democrats

1. Kyle Brown *
2. Judy Amabile
3. Lorena Garcia



House Republicans

1. Rick Taggart *
2. Marc Catlin (tie)
2. Lisa Frizell (tie)
3. Ryan Armagost

* pictured

An Act

BILLS SCORED

- HB24-1149** Modifications to requirements for prior authorization of benefits under health benefit plans
- HB24-1262** Maternal health midwives
- SB24-001** Continuation of the youth mental health services program
- SB24-015** Increasing the number of licensed professional counselors in communities
- SB24-034** Increasing access to school-based health care
- SB24-055** Supporting the behavioral health care of individuals involved in agriculture
- SB24-093** Continuity of health-care coverage change
- SB24-110** Prohibiting prior authorization for antipsychotic prescription drugs used to treat a mental health condition
- SB24-130** Raising the limitation on noneconomic damages in medical malpractice actions
- SB24-168** Remote monitoring services for medicaid members
- SB24-181** The creation of the Colorado alcohol impact and recovery enterprise

94%

of physicians report care delays because of prior authorizations.



BRIDGING THE GAP

77%

of Denverites who were enrolled in a supportive housing program remained housed 3 years after entering housing.

While we strive to ensure every Coloradan has the chance to live a healthy life, there are drastic disparities across the state. Factors like zip code, family income, or race, form barriers to receiving the opportunities we all deserve. This session was transformational as state lawmakers passed bills to help implement automated record sealing for eligible, non-violent criminal records, directed the state's Medicaid agency to apply for a federal waiver to allow funding for housing and nutrition services, and removed barriers to professional licenses for people with past records.

KEY BILLS

CRIMINAL RECORD SEALING & EXPUNGEMENT CHANGES HB24-1133

Sponsors: Rep. Mabrey, Rep. Soper, Sen. Rodriguez

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: In 2022, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 099, the Colorado Clean Slate Act, with nearly unanimous support to create an automatic record-sealing process for people with past, non-violent criminal records that were already eligible to be sealed. This year's bill was a crucial step to ensure Colorado has the most successful clean slate implementation in the country. Hundreds of thousands of people are set to have better access to meaningful jobs and stable housing and will be more empowered to contribute to their communities.

\$87 billion

is lost in annual GDP due to shutting people with criminal records out of the labor market.

MEDICAID COVERAGE HOUSING & NUTRITION SERVICES HB24-1322

Sponsors: Rep. Brown, Rep. Bird, Sen. Rodriguez, Sen. Kirkmeyer

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: A stable and safe home and access to nutritious food is the foundation to living a healthy life; yet, too many Coloradans either cannot secure housing, are on the verge of homelessness, or cannot get the food they need to stay healthy. This bill directs the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) to conduct a feasibility study and pursue a federal 1115 waiver so that Medicaid can fund housing and nutrition services. The feasibility study would determine how Medicaid could pay for: medically tailored meals; pantry stocking; nutrition prescriptions; temporary housing, rent, and utility assistance; housing navigation services and housing transition cost supports; and tenancy services, including eviction prevention and tenant support.

EX-OFFENDERS PRACTICE IN REGULATED OCCUPATIONS HB24-1004

Sponsors: Rep. Bacon, Rep. Bird, Sen. Coleman

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: Obtaining meaningful employment has been proven to cut recidivism in half, yet too many barriers remain for people who are trying to move beyond their past. More than 1 in 5 jobs in Colorado are licensed, including electricians, social workers, health care professionals, plumbers, veterinarians, cosmetologists, and many others. This bill reforms current practices that dictate how Colorado issues occupational licenses for individuals with past justice involvement who are seeking to pursue a career that requires a state license or credential. The bill creates a three-year look-back period, which would restrict the state from using records beyond that point to reject a license unless the record is directly linked to the license for which they are applying or produces a reasonable concern for public safety. Additionally, the bill sets up a predetermination process through the Department of Regulatory Agencies for Coloradans to ask if their past records would impede them from getting a license.



BRIDGING THE GAP

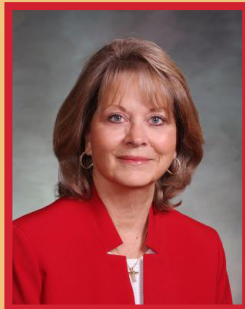


LEGISLATOR WINNERS BRIDGING THE GAP



Senate Democrats

1. Robert Rodriguez *
2. Rhonda Fields
3. Dafna Michaelson Jenet



Senate Republicans

1. Barbara Kirkmeyer *
2. Cleave Simpson
3. Bob Gardner



House Democrats

1. Shannon Bird *
2. Javier Mabrey
3. Kyle Brown



House Republicans

1. Matt Soper *
2. Mary Bradfield
3. Rick Taggart

Meaningful
employment reduces
recidivism by
50%, making
our communities safer.

* pictured

An Act

BILLS SCORED

SUPPORT:

- HB24-1003** Measures related to harm reduction for students
- HB24-1004** The ability of ex-offenders to receive authorization to practice in state-regulated occupations
- HB24-1019** Expanding a program to continue responding to youth behavioral health crises
- HB24-1037** Reducing the harm caused by substance use disorders
- HB24-1079** Concerning the treatment of persons detained in jail who are held on an emergency commitment
- HB24-1098** Protections for residential tenants in connection with eviction
- HB24-1133** Matters related to access to criminal records
- HB24-1322** A feasibility study to determine whether to seek federal authorization to provide services that address medicaid members' health-related social needs
- HB24-1364** Measures to support education-based workforce readiness
- HB24-1432** Eliminating the requirement for a defendant to pay the Colorado bureau of investigation for costs related to sealing criminal justice records in the bureau's custody
- SB24-064** Requiring the judicial department to make residential eviction-related information available to the public

OPPOSED:

- HB24-1126** Substance use disorder treatment as bond condition
- HB24-1306** Increase penalty for possession of synthetic opioids



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 supported a public health approach to mitigating the harmful effects of social media on youth mental health, attempted to find ways to prevent violence against health care workers, and created a designation to support first-generation serving higher education institutions.

KEY BILLS

HEALTHIER SOCIAL MEDIA USE BY YOUTH HB24-1136

Sponsors: Rep. Pugliese, Rep. Amabile, Sen. Smallwood, Sen. Cutter

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: HB24-1136 is a response to the call to action made in the U.S. Surgeon General’s advisory released last year, which recognized the impact of social media on youth health as a significant public health challenge that requires immediate attention and action. HB24-1136 applies a first-of-its-kind public health approach rooted in equipping teens, parents, and educators with information and tools needed to make informed decisions and ultimately to empower teens to have healthier social media habits that will contribute to their mental and physical wellness. This bill establishes an educational resource bank on social media and health within the Colorado Department of Education and requires social media platforms to display educational notifications to teen social media users after prolonged time spent on platforms. The evidence-informed solutions proposed by this bill recognize that education and agency are important foundations for positive behavior change.

82%
of Colorado voters think social media has a negative impact on youth mental health.

** Healthier Colorado poll*



In a survey, **48%** of nurses reported an increase in workplace violence — more than double the percentage from 2022.

PREVENT WORKPLACE VIOLENCE IN HEALTH-CARE SETTINGS HB24-1066

Sponsors: Rep. Hamrick, Rep. Garcia, Sen. Michaelson Jenet, Sen. Gonzales

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: Health care workers are five times as likely to experience workplace violence as other workers. Should the bill have passed, it would have established workplace violence prevention committees in certain health care settings to document and review workplace violence incidents and create a plan to prevent workplace violence. The bill would have also created reporting requirements regarding workplace violence incidents and mandated post-incident supportive services for the victim.

FIRST-GEN SERVING HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS HB24-1082

Sponsors: Rep. Taggart, Rep. Mabrey, Sen. Rich, Sen. Coleman

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: The Colorado Commission on Higher Education set a statewide goal for 66% of our state’s adult population to hold a postsecondary credential. One of the best ways to achieve this goal is to increase the number of first-generation students attending institutions of higher education. This bill creates a designation for institutions of higher education that serve a large portion of first-generation students so incoming students can share a sense of belonging with others of similar backgrounds and so institutions can be committed to meeting the unique needs of first-generation students.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



LEGISLATOR WINNERS HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Senate Democrats

1. Lisa Cutter *
2. Dafna Michaelson Jenet
3. James Coleman



Senate Republicans

1. Jim Smallwood *
2. Janice Rich
3. Cleave Simpson



House Democrats

1. Judy Amabile *
2. Eliza Hamrick
3. Lorena Garcia



House Republicans

1. Rose Pugliese *
2. Rick Taggart
3. Ryan Armagost (tie)
3. Mary Bradfield (tie)

* pictured

An Act

BILLS SCORED

SUPPORT:

- HB24-1066** Methods to prevent workplace violence in certain health-care settings
- HB24-1082** The designation of state institutions of higher education as first-generation-serving institutions
- HB24-1136** Measures to encourage healthier social media use by youth
- HB24-1285** Preventing bullying in public schools based on student physical appearance
- SB24-007** Creating a behavioral health first aid training program in the office of suicide prevention
- SB24-065** Concerning the use of mobile electronic devices when driving a motor vehicle
- SB24-094** Safe housing for residential tenants
- SB24-106** Legal actions based on claimed defects in construction projects
- SB24-158** Social media protect juveniles disclosures reports
- SB24-184** Support surface transportation infrastructure development
- SCR 24-003** Submitting to the registered electors of the state of Colorado an amendment to the Colorado constitution removing the ban on same-sex marriage

36%

of students enrolled at Colorado's public higher education schools in 2021 were the first in their family to go to college.



EARLY CHILDHOOD



Kids deserve every opportunity to grow into successful, healthy adults. Decisions that legislators make today can have both positive and detrimental outcomes on the well-being of our children that can last a lifetime. Factors like access to health care, quality early childhood education, nutritious foods, and stable, safe housing can predetermine whether young people can be healthy as adults. It's critical that the public knows where their elected officials stand when it comes to kids and their efforts to ensure all kids, including those who face historical disadvantages, can lead healthy lives.

Healthier Colorado will reward leaders on both sides of the aisle who champion efforts that give our kids the best opportunities for success. Not only does this portion of the scorecard recognize individual champions, but it rewards the two caucuses as a whole. Issues that support kids must never lean towards Democratic or Republican fault lines. By working together, both caucuses will benefit from a financial gift during election cycles. Bipartisanship and meaningful policy advancements are the keys to getting high scores.

This year, legislators worked to expand access to affordable, quality child care for low-income families, provide financial relief to families with children to support economic stability, and support investment in child care infrastructure across the state. These are the kinds of bipartisan policies that create the strong foundations of health kids deserve.

KEY BILLS

IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM **HB24-1223**

Sponsors: Rep. Garcia, Rep. Willford, Sen. Cutter, Sen. Michaelson Jenet

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: Too many parents who want to work and provide for their families cannot because they don't have access to affordable, quality child care. The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, or CCCAP, provides child care subsidies to low-income, working families or families that are in job training or school. This bill creates a streamlined, efficient process for eligible parents to apply for CCCAP that reduces administrative burdens for the state and counties. It will also stabilize Colorado's child care infrastructure with updated payment models. By streamlining and strengthening an accurate eligibility process for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, Colorado will open the door to stronger support for families, thriving small businesses, and healthy communities.

PROGRAMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES **HB24-1237**

Sponsors: Rep. Bradfield, Rep. Lukens, Sen. Marchman, Sen. Rich

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: The availability of child care is critical to a thriving community and economy. This bill will create a more favorable environment for the development, creative reuse, and community integration of facilities for child care in Colorado by reducing costs and removing barriers for child care facilities by providing the technical planning, building, construction, and development supports needed to increase child care capacity in communities.

FAMILY AFFORDABILITY TAX CREDIT **HB24-1311**

Sponsors: Rep. deGruy Kennedy, Rep. Willford, Sen. Winter, Sen. Coleman

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: Colorado's high cost of living has made it hard for most families to achieve economic stability. This bill puts more money in the hands of 45% of Colorado families by expanding the child tax credit to middle-class families and to families with children up to age 16, on a sliding scale. The tax credit is paid for through the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) surplus annually, and will not be implemented in a year without a TABOR surplus.

Businesses
lose
\$23 billion
annually due to insufficient
child care infrastructures.



EARLY CHILDHOOD



LEGISLATOR WINNERS EARLY CHILDHOOD



Senate Democrats

1. Lisa Cutter * (tie)
1. Dafna Michaelson Jenet * (tie)
2. James Coleman (tie)
2. Faith Winter (tie)

Senate Republicans

1. Janice Rich *
2. Larry Liston
3. Jim Smallwood



House Democrats

1. Lorena Garcia * (tie)
1. Jenny Willford * (tie)
2. Chris deGruy Kennedy
3. Barbara McLachlan

House Republicans

1. Mary Bradfield *
2. Rick Taggart
3. Richard Holtorf (tie)
3. Rose Pugliese (tie)

An Act

BILLS SCORED

- HB24-1009** Requiring the department of early childhood to provide child care licensing resources in prevalent languages
- HB24-1223** The improvement of programs that benefit working families
- HB24-1237** The creation of programs for the development of child care facilities
- HB24-1311** The creation of a family affordability tax credit
- SB24-175** Measures to improve perinatal health outcomes

The Family Affordability Tax Credit is expected to cut child poverty in half in Colorado.

51%
of Coloradans live in a licensed child care desert.

* pictured



HEALTHIER COLORADO'S
**2024 LEGISLATIVE
 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE**

Our Legislative Leadership Circle features elected officials who supported each of the **40 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

REPRESENTATIVES

- Judy Amabile
- Jeniffer Bacon
- Andrew Boesenecker
- Kyle Brown
- Chad Clifford
- Lindsey Daugherty
- Chris deGruy Kennedy
- Elisabeth Epps
- Meg Froelich
- Lorena Garcia
- Eliza Hamrick
- Tim Hernández
- Leslie Herod
- Iman Jodeh
- Junie Joseph
- Cathy Kipp
- Sheila Lieder
- Mandy Lindsay
- William Lindstedt
- Meghan Lukens
- Javier Mabrey
- Matthew Martinez
- Julia Marvin
- Tisha Mauro
- Karen McCormik
- Barbara McLachlan
- David Ortiz
- Naquetta Ricks
- Manny Rutinel
- Emily Sirota
- Tammy Story
- Brianna Titone
- Elizabeth Velasco
- Stephanie Vigil
- Mike Weissman
- Jenny Willford
- Steven Woodrow
- Mary Young
- Julie McCluskie

SENATORS

- Jeff Bridges
- Janet Buckner
- James Coleman
- Lisa Cutter
- Tony Exum
- Rhonda Fields
- Chris Hansen
- Nick Hinrichsen
- Janice Marchman
- Dafna Michaelson Jenet
- Faith Winter





FINAL BILLS SCORED

TIER 1

- HB24-1133** Matters related to access to criminal records
- HB24-1136** Measures to encourage healthier social media use by youth
- HB24-1223** The improvement of programs that benefit working families
- HB24-1332** A feasibility study to determine whether to seek federal authorization to provide services that address medicaid members' health-related social needs

TIER 2

- HB24-1004** The ability of ex-offenders to receive authorization to practice in state-regulated occupations
- HB24-1019** Expanding a program to continue responding to youth behavioral health crises
- HB24-1066** Methods to prevent workplace violence in certain health-care settings
- HB24-1311** The creation of a family affordability tax credit
- HB24-1432** Eliminating the requirement for a defendant to pay the Colorado bureau of investigation for costs related to sealing criminal justice records in the bureau's custody
- SB24-106** Legal actions based on claimed defects in construction projects
- SB24-130** Raising the limitation on noneconomic damages in medical malpractice actions

TIER 3

- HB24-1003** Measures related to harm reduction for students
- HB24-1009** Requiring the department of early childhood to provide child care licensing resources in prevalent languages
- HB34-1037** Reducing the harm caused by substance use disorders
- HB24-1079** Concerning the treatment of persons detained in jail who are held on an emergency commitment
- HB24-1082** The designation of state institutions of higher education as first-generation-serving institutions
- HB24-1098** Protections for residential tenants in connection with eviction
- HB24-1149** Modifications to requirements for prior authorization of benefits under health benefit plans
- HB24-1237** The creation of programs for the development of child care facilities
- HB24-1262** Maternal health midwives
- HB24-1285** Preventing bullying in public schools based on student physical appearance
- HB24-1364** Measures to support education-based workforce readiness
- SB24-001** Continuation of the youth mental health services program
- SB24-007** Creating a behavioral health first aid training program in the office of suicide prevention
- SB24-015** Increasing the number of licensed professional counselors in communities
- SB24-034** Increasing access to school-based health care

- SB24-055** Supporting the behavioral health care of individuals involved in agriculture
- SB24-064** Requiring the judicial department to make residential eviction-related information available to the public
- SB24-065** Concerning the use of mobile electronic devices when driving a motor vehicle
- SB24-093** Continuity of health-care coverage change
- SB24-094** Safe housing for residential tenants
- SB24-110** Prohibiting prior authorization for antipsychotic prescription drugs used to treat a mental health condition
- SB24-158** Social media protect juveniles disclosures reports
- SB24-168** Remote monitoring services for medicaid members
- SB24-175** Measures to improve perinatal health outcomes
- SB24-181** The creation of the Colorado alcohol impact and recovery enterprise
- SB24-184** Support surface transportation infrastructure development
- SCR24-003** Submitting to the registered electors of the state of Colorado an amendment to the Colorado constitution removing the ban on same-sex marriage

TIER 3

OPPOSED

- HB24-1126** Substance use disorder treatment as bond condition
- HB24-1306** Increase penalty for possession of synthetic opiates

- Methodology:**
- Total stars were awarded to Senators based on dividing members into quintiles after ranking members 1-35 based on their total percentage of their overall voting and sponsorship records.
 - Total stars were awarded to Representatives based on dividing members into quintiles after ranking members 1-65 based on their total percentage of their overall voting and sponsorship records.
 - 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 pro-health position +0.333 points
 - Votes against a pro-health position resulted in no points being awarded
 - Votes occurring when legislators were excused or absent were not included in their final score.



DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE?

SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT, AND SEE HOW THEY SCORED THIS YEAR!



**HEALTHY AIR &
WATER COLORADO**



HEALTHY AIR & WATER COLORADO



Healthy Air and Water Colorado is Healthier Colorado’s sister organization that focuses exclusively on public policy that addresses the growing public health threats posed by a changing climate. Regardless of where you live or how you vote, people across Colorado are experiencing the consequences of drought, extreme temperatures, severe wildfires, and poor air and water quality. All of these lead to adverse health outcomes, and the legislature can take steps to mitigate our contributions to climate change and help our communities become more resilient to climate impacts, particularly our most vulnerable community members like those with existing health issues and children. While our Healthier Colorado work focuses on broadly mobilizing grassroots Coloradans, our charge is to engage health care professionals, including frontline health care providers, who see and treat the real health issues caused by these environmental challenges.

Much of Colorado’s Front Range has faced the challenge of excess ozone pollution for over a decade, and nine counties are in severe nonattainment of these federal, health-based standards. In 2023 we helped pass HB23-1294, which established a legislative interim committee to study the causes of ozone pollution and potential policy solutions to improve our air quality.

As a result of the legislative interim committee on ozone air quality, three bills emerged aimed at reducing ozone emissions from multiple sources. While we prioritized two of these bills, they were postponed indefinitely as a result of tough, but successful negotiations to pull down over twenty threatening ballot initiatives from the oil and gas industry that would have rolled back Colorado’s climate progress and stymied future climate action. Two new bills were born out of this process, and their passage into law marks the most significant progress Colorado has made toward improving ozone air quality in decades. You’ll see both the postponed and passed bills scored to recognize the legislators championing these issues so every Coloradan can breathe unpolluted air and drink safe water.

KEY AIR QUALITY BILLS

OZONE MITIGATION MEASURES SB24-229



Sponsors: Sen. Faith Winter, Sen. Kevin Priola, Rep. Jennifer Bacon, Rep. Jenny Willford

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: This bill will accomplish meaningful reductions in ozone and other air pollutants through improved modeling and enforcement. Importantly, this bill provides better protections for disproportionately impacted communities, including additional funding for closing orphan and marginal wells.



OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION FEES SB24-230



Sponsors: Sen. Steve Fenberg, Sen. Lisa Cutter, Rep. Julie McCluskie, Rep. Elizabeth Velasco

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: Oil and gas operations can have negative impacts on the environment and public health, including greenhouse gas emissions, emissions of ozone precursors, destruction of valuable landscapes, and biodiversity loss. This bill will help offset the state's costs in remediating the harm caused by oil and gas by establishing new fees on oil and gas to fund expanding transit service and infrastructure and invest in wildlife and natural lands conservation and restoration.

KEY CLIMATE RESILIENCY BILLS

IMPLEMENT STATE CLIMATE GOALS SB24-214



Sponsors: Sen. Chris Hansen, Sen. Lisa Cutter, Rep. Judy Amabile, Rep. Karen McCormick

Pro-Health Position: Support (concepts from HB24-1352 were amended into this bill)

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: While it was not the bill HAWC and partners set out to pass, this legislation contains important progress for climate and access to cooling. The bill delivers clean-up of existing state heat pump tax credits to make them easier to use, protects consumers by requiring contractors to be properly trained to install energy-efficient appliances to manufacturer specifications, and requires new building projects receiving state funding to use ENERGY STAR appliances where available & cost effective - this is proven to save taxpayers money. Additionally, the bill requires the Colorado Energy Office to study the best way to make affordable, efficient cooling available to all by the end of the decade.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT TAX CREDIT SB24-126



Sponsors: Sen. Perry Will, Sen. Faith Winter, Rep. Lukens

Pro-Health Position: Support

Final Action: Signed into law

Summary: Land and water-based conservation programs in Colorado are critical tools in achieving Colorado's carbon reduction goals, reaching biodiversity and resiliency objectives, and accommodating the state's growing outdoor recreation demands. While land conservation alone cannot end climate threats, it plays a key role in creating natural solutions to mitigate the impacts. This bipartisan legislation will build upon the immense success of the tax credit program by eliminating the expiration dates of key programs. It also raises the tax credit cap to meet the current demand for conservation projects and expand the state's conservation reach



Ozone precursors from the oil and gas sector are estimated to be between

\$130M and **\$233M.**

LEGISLATOR WINNERS HAWC



Senate Democrats

1. Lisa Cutter *
2. Faith Winter
3. Kevin Priola



Senate Republicans

1. Cleave Simpson *
2. Perry Will
3. Janice Rich



House Democrats

1. Elizabeth Velasco *
2. Meg Froelich
3. Jenny Willford
3. Jennifer Bacon



House Republicans

1. Mike Lynch *
2. Marc Catlin
3. Ron Weinberg

In 2022,
the number of
emergency room visits for
illnesses from extreme heat
more than doubled in Colorado.

* pictured



HEALTHY AIR & WATER COLORADO



An Act

BILLS SCORED

TIER 1:

- HB24-1330** Modifications of processes to obtain permits for activities that impact air quality
- HB24-1352** Increasing access to affordable appliances for a healthy community
- SB24-166** Increasing the enforcement of violations that impact the environment
- SB24-229** Measures to mitigate ozone pollution in the state

TIER 2:

- HB24-1068** Air conditioning in schools and air conditioning in school buses
- SB24-094** Safe housing for residential tenants
- SB24-126** Concerning the conservation easement income tax credit
- SB24-214** Implementation of state climate goals
- SB24-230** Support for statewide remediation services that positively impact the environment

TIER 3:

- HB24-1006** Assistance for rural communities to apply for wildfire-related grant money
- HB24-1024** Continuation of public outreach campaigns relating to wildfire risk mitigation in the wildland-urban interface

- HB24-1030** Railroad safety requirements
 - HB24-1033** Concerning emergency management plans for individuals with animals
 - HB24-1091** Prohibiting restrictions on the use of fire-hardened building materials in residential real property
 - HB24-1178** Local government authority to regulate pesticides
 - HB24-1307** HVAC infrastructure improvement projects in schools
 - HB24-1313** Measures to increase the affordability of housing in transit-oriented communities
 - HB24-1338** Measures to advance environmental justice by reducing cumulative impacts of air pollution
 - HB24-1339** Measures to be taken by the air quality control commission to reduce air pollution in the state
 - HB24-1362** Measures to promote the use of graywater
 - HB24-1366** Sustainable local government community planning
 - HB24-1370** Measures to reduce the cost of use of natural gas infrastructure
 - SB24-005** Conservation of water in the state through the prohibition of certain landscaping practices
 - SB24-009** Assisting local governments in disaster-related programs
 - SB24-032** Methods to increase the use of transit
 - SB24-081** Measures to increase protections from perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals
 - SB24-152** Income tax credit for qualifying food and beverage retailers in the state that source ingredients from local producers practicing regenerative agriculture
 - SB24-165** Measures to reduce emissions of air pollutants that negatively impact air quality
 - SB24-184** Support for the development of surface transportation infrastructure and providing funding and operational flexibility needed to support the development of transit and rail infrastructure
 - SB24-218** Measures to modernize energy distribution systems
- OPPOSED:**
- SB24-094** Cost effective energy codes

58%
of Coloradans reside in the nine-county area that regularly experiences unhealthy ozone levels during the summer.

We believe every Coloradan should have
a fair chance at living a healthy life.

NOW YOU KNOW THE SCORE



Take action at healthiercolorado.org



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