

## 2020-2024 Legislative Achievements

Bills Prime Sponsored By Representative Mary Young

### Public & Behavioral Health:

#### [HB24-1003: Opiate Antagonists & Detection Products in Schools](#)

***Sponsors: Representatives McLachlan and Young & Senators Simpson and Michaelson Jenet***

This bill encourages Colorado school districts to implement a policy that provides access to and education about administering opiate antagonists and testing strips in school environments and at school-sanctioned events. Students were a driving force with this bill and assisted us in creating a policy that reflects the needs of students in schools across the state.

#### [HB24-1115: Prescription Drug Label Accessibility](#)

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Joseph & Senator Fenberg***

The bill mandates pharmacies to offer accessible prescription drug label information to individuals with visual impairments through electronic labels, prescription drug readers, braille or large print labels, or other recommended methods, within 28 days of request, while establishing a grant program to assist pharmacies in acquiring equipment for creating accessible labels and requiring them to inform the public of this service.

#### [SB24-047: Prevention of Substance Use Disorders](#)

***Sponsors: Senators Jaquez Lewis and Priola & Representatives Young and Epps***

Several measures regarding the prevention of substance use disorders are created within this bill. The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) will be modified and procedures for local drug overdose fatality review teams will be established to ensure public health.

#### [SB24-115: Mental Health Professionals Practice Requirements](#)

***Sponsors: Senators Michaelson Jenet and Smallwood & Representatives Young and Sirota***

The bill streamlines the process for mental health professionals by removing certain requirements, such as the need for an explanation of regulatory levels, eliminating the masters examination for licensed social worker licenses, and introducing a Colorado jurisprudence examination for various candidate registrations. Additionally, it allows candidates to renew their registrations if unable to complete licensure requirements within the designated timeframe and mandates rule-making to align rules with practice acts by December 31, 2024, for relevant state boards.

#### [SB24-121: Licensure of Critical Access Hospitals](#)

***Sponsors: Senators Pelton and Roberts & Representatives Young and Holtorf***

The bill separating critical access hospitals from the general hospital licensure process will create an easier pathway for Colorado's 32 critical access hospitals to obtain licensure. This will ease financial burdens and remove unnecessary steps in improving the existing critical access hospital.

### **HB24-1471: Electroconvulsive Therapy for Minors**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Bradfield & Senator Michaelson Jenet***

The bill permits electroconvulsive treatment (ECT) for minors under 16 years old only if two licensed psychiatrists approve, other treatments have failed, ECT is necessary for life-threatening conditions, administered by a qualified physician, and consented to by the minor's parent or guardian.

### **SB24-227: Automated External Defibrillators in Public Schools**

***Sponsors: Senators Bridges and Pelton & Representatives Young and Bradley***

The bill removes the authorization for public schools to refuse donated automated external defibrillators (AEDs) based on responsibility concerns regarding training, installation, or maintenance, but allows schools to determine the training procedures, frequency, and timing for AED use.

### **HB23-1236: Implementation Updates to Behavioral Health Administration**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Amabile & Senators Kolker and Simpson***

This bill builds on the work of last year's legislation, HB22-1278, which established the Behavioral Health Administration. HB23-1236 is a clean-up bill that makes multiple technical changes to the implementation processes for the BHA.

### **SB23-004: Employment of School Mental Health Professionals**

***Sponsors: Senators Marchman and Jaquez Lewis & Representatives Young and Michaelson Jenet***

The bill allows schools to employ school-based therapists who are not CDE licensed but hold a license from the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) to be employed as a school mental health professional. This legislation will increase access to mental health services for students by addressing the shortage of mental health professionals in schools.

### **HB22-1278 Behavioral Health Administration**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Pelton & Senators Lee and Simpson***

Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) will establish a comprehensive, accountable behavioral health safety net system throughout Colorado. Any state agency that administers a behavioral health program is required to collaborate with the BHA. A robust engagement process was held over the past two years to inform the creation of the BHA and the [Behavioral Health Task Force's Blueprint for Reform](#) has been used as a guiding document.

### **HB22-1214 Behavioral Health Crisis Response System**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Pelton & Senators Kolker and Priola***

Too often people have been turned away or diverted to the emergency room due to a lack of clarity in the statute. This bill makes it clear that crisis system facilities and programs must serve youth, individuals with substance use disorders, and individuals with disabilities. No one in crisis should be turned away from crucial services.

### **SB22-156 Medicaid Prior Authorization And Recovery Of Payment**

***Sponsors: Senators Kolker and Fenberg & Representatives Young and Amabile***

Independent Medicaid Mental Health Providers serving Colorado's most vulnerable populations experience repeated difficulty in continuing outpatient psychotherapy services for their clients due to prior authorization approval processes by Medicaid managed care entities. This bill eliminates the prior authorization process which will reduce barriers to necessary outpatient psychotherapy treatment and enable clients to receive regular, uninterrupted care. It also clarifies when a managed care entity can collect money that they already paid out to the provider and will create clearer processes and shared understanding for both parties.

**[SB22-077 Interstate Licensed Professional Counselor Compact](#)**

***Sponsors: Senators Ginal and Woodward & Representatives Young and Larson***

Interstate Licensed Professional Counselor Compact is an important opportunity for us to increase our mental health workforce. This bill allows Colorado to participate in a licensing compact with other states to address workforce shortages in the field of counseling. This will increase our workforce, especially utilizing telehealth. It also improves consumer protection across state lines by ensuring safe regulation through shared data and disciplinary systems.

**[SB22-147 Behavioral Health-care Services For Children](#)**

***Sponsors: Senators Kolker and Sonnenberg & Representatives Young and Pelton***

This bill allocates federal American Rescue Plan Act money to the Colorado Pediatric Psychiatry Consultation and Access Program, creates a school-based health center grant program, and puts money toward the behavioral health care professional matching grant program. All three of these programs help increase access to behavioral health care for youth in their schools and in their communities.

**[HB22-1213 Sunset Continue Regulation Speech-language Pathologists](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Pico & Senator Buckner***

The department's sunset report shows that this profession benefits the people of Colorado and SLPs should continue to be certified. This bill continues the regulation of speech-language pathologists in the Department of Regulatory Agencies. Continuing this certification is important for safety and access to services.

**[HB21-1097 Establish Behavioral Health Administration](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Pelton & Senators Fields and Gardner***

This bill will ensure improved access to quality behavioral and mental health services for all Coloradans regardless of their background, ability to pay, or history. The bill, which came out of recommendations from the Behavioral Health Task Force, creates a single state agency called the Behavioral Health Administration. This agency consolidates services under one umbrella to eliminate unnecessary fragmentation of services, ensure that Colorado can respond to the changing needs of Coloradans, promote transparency of consumer outcomes and spending of taxpayer dollars, and set standards for the behavioral health system in Colorado to improve quality of care.

### **HB21-1166 Behavioral Health Crisis Response Training**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Will & Senator Ginal***

This bill directs the Department of Health Care Policy and Finance to obtain a vendor to provide comprehensive care coordination and treatment training for people who work with people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and co-occurring behavioral health needs. It is clear that there is an urgent need to provide training to mental health professionals in order to provide mental health parity for individuals with cognitive disabilities in order to keep them in their home and community, to prevent unnecessary psychiatric placements, and to stop legal involvement and incarceration.

### **SB21-239 2-1-1 Statewide Human Services Referral System**

***Sponsors: Senators Kolker and Zenzinger & Representatives Amabile and Young***

This bill will help connect unemployed Coloradans across the state to behavioral health services and other vital resources needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. State funds will support the operation and management of the 2-1-1 program along with supporting collaboration with the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health, and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. This bill will help the 2-1-1 hotline refer callers to behavioral health services to help more Coloradans get connected with life-saving health care. 2-1-1 is a multilingual communication system already helping Coloradans connect to important services such as housing, food, safety, and health needs.

### **SB21-021 Audiology and Speech-language Interstate Compact**

***Sponsors: Senators Buckner and Hisey & Representatives Young and Carver***

This bill would allow audiologists and speech-language pathologists to obtain a privilege to practice across state lines without having to become licensed in additional Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) member states. This helps increase access to care for patients and improve consumer protections across state lines. It will also allow military personnel and partners to more easily maintain their profession.

### **HB21-1279 Occupational Therapy Interstate Compact**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Holtorf & Senator Fields***

This bill allows Colorado to join the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact which allows occupational therapists to practice in-person or virtually across state lines without having to become licensed in additional states. This will address the increased demand to provide and receive occupational therapy. It will also allow military personnel and partners to more easily maintain their profession when relocating. The compact will take effect when 10 states have enacted authorizing legislation.

## **Education:**

### **HB24-1063: Addressing Abbreviated School Days**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Garcia & Senator Kolker***

As defined by this bill, an abbreviated school day is “any school day in which a student with disabilities receives instruction for fewer hours than the majority of students in the same grade and school district”. The Colorado Department of Education is also required to create and implement a policy that includes this newly set definition of an ASD, documentation requirements and recordkeeping, provided information for parental consent, how students with disabilities can participate in school-sanctioned events, and a regular review process to determine ASD schedules.

### **HB24-1096: School Psychologist Licensure Interstate Compact**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Lukens & Senators Kolker and Marchman***

Before participating in the compact, a state must require school psychologists to obtain the national requirement of supervision hours and a degree from an accredited school psychologist program. Once in the compact, obtaining licensure across member-state lines will be an easier process for school psychologists.

### **HB24-1231: State Funding for Higher Education Projects**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Daugherty & Senators Kirkmeyer and Mullica***

This bill provides funding for capital construction projects related to healthcare education executed through a lease-purchase agreement will begin payments in the fiscal year 2027/28 to be used for the following additions to higher education:

- College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of Northern Colorado;
- Health Institute Tower at Metropolitan State University of Denver;
- Veterinary Health Education Complex at Colorado State University; and
- The renovation of the Valley Campus Main Building at Trinidad State College.

### **SB24-069: Clarify Individualized Education Program Information**

***Sponsors: Senators Kolker and Kirkmeyer & Representatives Young and Garcia***

In collaboration with stakeholders, the CDE is required to create a training program that outlines the federal and state procedures and laws related to individualized education programs in an easily understood format. Materials and resources must be provided as well making the training accessible to all intending to participate.

### **SB23-084: Full-time Employment for Higher Education Faculty**

***Sponsors: Senators Marchman and Gonzales & Representative Young***

Adjunct faculty in Colorado often do not qualify for federal Public Student Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) because they are only paid for the time they spend inside the classroom, which does not account for additional hours of grading, planning, and meeting with students. This bill implements a multiplier on adjunct faculty members’ instruction hours to more accurately reflect their full time work and allow them to qualify for the federal PSLF program.

### **SB23-070: Mandatory School Resource Officer Training**

***Sponsors: Senators Kolker and Kirkmeyer & Representatives Young and Armagost***

This bill will require the Attorney General’s office to convene an annual training meeting for

school resource officers and school officials to discuss best practices regarding Safe2Tell reports. This legislation builds on the success of the Safe2Tell program, which has been a critical safety reporting program for students, parents and community members.

### **HB23-1263: Translating Individualized Education Programs**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Garcia & Senators Gonzales and Zenzinger***

Students with special needs often have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) that are created in collaboration between a multidisciplinary team of educators and the child's parents. This bill requires the team to translate the final IEP document into the parents' primary language, so that parents can be meaningfully included in their child's education.

### **HB23-1213: Stop the Bleed School Training and Kits**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Bradfield & Senator Mullica***

This bill requires the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to distribute Stop the Bleed training materials and bleed control kits to K-12 schools that opt in to receive them. These kits help prevent life-threatening bleeding, which is the number one cause of death in traumatic injuries.

### **HB23-1089: Special Education Services for Student in Foster Care**

***Sponsors: Representative Young & Senator Zenzinger***

This bill modifies current law to direct resources toward the school district a foster child attends, rather than to the district they are geographically located in. The bill also creates a task force to identify solutions to issues children in the foster care system face regarding their education. This legislation better aligns special education funding with school enrollment, helping schools to better serve students.

### **HB23-1064: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Lukens & Senators Marchman and Kolker***

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

### **SB22-056 UNC Osteopathic Medicine Degrees**

***Sponsors: Senators Sonnenberg and Garcia & Representatives Young and Will***

This bill allows the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) to establish a school of Osteopathic Medicine. This is so exciting because not only will it address the significant shortage of physicians across the state, but it will have a significant positive impact on the economy of Greeley and the surrounding area. UNC is uniquely positioned to leverage existing programs such as nursing, speech-language pathology, behavioral health, etc. to amplify positive outcomes for healthcare access and quality across the state.

### **[SB22-137 Transition Back To Standard K-12 Accountability](#)**

***Sponsors: Senators Zenzinger and Coram & Representatives Young and McLachlan***

Over the last two years, we paused our state accountability system for schools due to COVID. This bill sets up a pathway to get back to our accountability system.

### **[HB22-1107 Inclusive Higher Ed](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Bradfield & Senators Cooke and Bridges***

In 2016 the state legislature signed into law SB16-196 which established a five-year Inclusive Higher Education (IHE) Pilot Initiative for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) at the University of Northern Colorado, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and Arapahoe Community College. The success of the pilot initiative has led to significant demand for more options throughout Colorado. HB22-1107 creates a grant program in the Department of Higher Education for state institutions of higher education to apply for grants to establish new or expand existing inclusive higher education programs for students with IDD.

### **[HB22-1294 Special Education Services in Charter Schools](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Michaelson Jenet & Senators Zenzinger and Gardner***

This bill will allow interested and committed Charter Schools to have a greater ability to provide services to special education students.

### **[HB22-1376 Supportive Learning Environments For K-12 Students](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Herod & Senators Priola and Winter***

Schools play a crucial role in fostering safety, connectedness, and healthy conditions for students' learning and development. This bill will make data about students' experiences at school more transparent and will ensure that every student learns in an environment that is positive, safe, and inclusive.

### **[HB21-1221 Bullying Prevention and Education in Schools](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Cutter and Young & Senator Coram***

This bill is an important next step to increasing bullying prevention and decreasing acts of bullying. Recognizing the quality of the Colorado Bullying Prevention and Education Model Policy the bill requires each district to incorporate the approaches, policies, and practices outlined in the Policy in their bullying prevention plan. This Model policy includes the evidenced and research-based approach to Bullying Prevention including intervention models that the 2018 legislation required. Another important step this bill takes is including bullying as a behavior that needs to be reported by school districts as part of conduct and discipline reporting. This will help us better understand how often bullying is occurring and how effective our efforts in preventing bullying have been.

### **[SB21-151 Literacy Curriculum Transparency](#)**

***Sponsors: Senators Buckner and Rankin & Representatives Young and Rich***

This bill requires school districts and other local education providers to post their reading curriculums and the other reading support programs they use on the CDE website. This improved transparency about reading programs implemented in public schools will pave the way for parents to be more involved in their children's reading education, especially the parents of struggling readers. The number of students who have literacy plans and those who are no longer identified as having a significant reading deficiency will also be posted. This will give parents and the community a better sense of the success of the reading interventions provided by their child's school.

**[SB21-201 Stricter Transparency & Enforcement in Child Care](#)**

***Sponsors: Senators Danielson and Pettersen & Representatives Young and Boesenecker***

This bill makes several changes to requirements and penalties for child care facilities that are required to be licensed or that are exempt from licensure by the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS). This bill requires that any cease and desist orders (telling child care facilities that they need to stop providing child care) be posted on the State's website Colorado Shines. This is a significant step toward providing increased transparency to parents about the child care facilities they are considering to trust their precious children with for care.

**[HB20B-1001 Grants To Improve Internet Access In P-12 Education](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Soper & Senators Donovan and Coram***

The bill creates the connecting Colorado students grant program to provide grants to local education providers to use in providing broadband service and other technology for increased internet access for students, educators, and other staff. The program is created in the department of education.

**Saving Money for Coloradoans:**

**[SB24-111: Senior Property Tax Exemption Portability Bill](#)**

***Sponsors: Senators Kolker and Hansen & Representatives Lieder and Young***

The bill establishes a new subclass of residential real property, termed qualified-senior primary residence real property, for property tax years starting January 1, 2025, allowing certain owner-occupiers meeting specific criteria to apply for reduced property tax valuation, while also providing reimbursement to local governments for any resulting revenue loss.

**[HB24-1084: Repeal & Reenact Earned Income Tax Credit Increase](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Willford and Young & Senators Kolker and Fields***

This bill repeals and reenacts House Bill 23B-1002, which increased the state earned income tax credit to 50% of the federal credit, aiming to resolve uncertainty resulting from litigation regarding the bill's compliance with state constitutional requirements.

**[HB23-1112: Earned Income and Child Tax Credits](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Bird & Senators Hansen and Kolker***



This bill will expand on previous legislation and expand the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC), putting nearly \$170M into the pockets of lower and middle income Coloradans. These tax credits have lifted thousands of Coloradans across the state out of poverty, and this legislation furthers Colorado's commitment to expanding these credits on a state level.

#### **HB23-1006: Employer Notice of Income Tax Credits**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Daugherty & Senator Exum***

This bill will save people money by requiring employers to notify employees of the availability of the aforementioned state and federal tax credits (EITC and CTC). Studies show these tax credits are widely underutilized and this legislation will improve access to these tax credits.

#### **SB22-182 Economic Mobility Program**

***Sponsors: Senators Hansen and Coram & Representatives Young and Daugherty***

As we know Covid has had a disproportionate impact on low and no-income families. This fund will help increase citizens' enrollment in tax credit programs Child Tax credit (CTC), Earned Income Tax credit (EITC), and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. It also requires the Department of Higher Education to help students access public benefits. Access to tax credits can help reduce childhood and household poverty.

#### **HB22-1004 Driver License Fee Reduction**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Ortiz & Senators Fields and Kolker***

This bill will save people money at the DMV. It allows for the transfer of funding from the state general fund to the licensing services cash fund in order to prevent driver's license fees and identification card fees from increasing for two years.

#### **HB22-1299 License Registration Fee Relief For Mental Health Professionals**

***Sponsors: Representative Young & Senators Kolker and Fields*** This bill aims to relieve the financial burdens of Colorado mental health professionals by providing fee relief for licensing and certification fees in the year 2023-2024. Mental health professions include the state boards of psychological examiners, social work examiners, professional counselor examiners, marriage and family therapists, unlicensed psychotherapists, and addiction counselor examiners.

### **Human Services:**

#### **HB24-1038: High-Acuity Crisis for Children & Youth**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Bradley & Senators Kirkmeyer and Fields***

The bill mandates the development of a comprehensive system of care for children and youth with complex behavioral health needs, including standardized assessment tools, intensive care coordination, expanded supportive services, and access to treatment foster care. It establishes a residential child care provider training academy to ensure staff receive necessary training and

sets quality standards for residential child care providers, incentivizing providers to exceed minimum standards. Additionally, it extends and enhances programs providing emergency resources to licensed providers, increases minimum reimbursement rates for residential treatment programs, and conducts analyses to determine appropriate Medicaid reimbursement rates for psychiatric facilities, while also implementing a pilot program for short-term residential services for juvenile justice-involved youth.

#### **HB24-1377: CASA Volunteers Working with Foster Youth**

***Sponsors: Representatives Mabrey and Young & Senator Cutter***

The bill allows court-appointed special advocate (CASA) volunteers to assist foster youth in transition by attaching to, staying attached to, or being reattached to their cases, with the youth's consent. CASA volunteers in such cases support the youth in planning for their future and accessing necessary services, but they are prohibited from making best interest recommendations to the court or accessing confidential information without the youth's express consent.

#### **SB24-008: Kinship Foster Care Homes**

***Sponsors: Senators Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer & Representatives Pugliese and Young***

This bill allows non-kinship foster care homes to obtain certification which details the eligibility requirements for financial assistance. This bill asks the CDHS to collect data on the number of children placed with kin and work with other state departments to guide the kinship certification process.

#### **SB23-040: Staffing Agency CAPS Checks**

***Sponsors: Senator Fields & Representative Young***

Under current law, when an employer is going to hire a person to work in a position in which the person has contact with at-risk adults, the employer must perform a check of the system that contains substantiated claims of mistreatment against an at-risk adult (CAPS check). This legislation will clarify responsibility for who performs CAPS checks, expediting the process and improving safety.

#### **HB23-1197: Stakeholder Process for Oversight of Host Homes**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Weinberg & Senator Danielson***

Host homes providers are independent contractors who provide care in their homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This bill will convene a stakeholding group with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Finance to address issues of safety and improve oversight of host home providers.

#### **HB23-1067: Family Intervener Program Deafblind Children**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Bradfield & Senators Cutter and Ginal***

This bill creates the family and community intervener program to support children who are deafblind and their families. The program provides deafblind children the services of an intervener who is specifically trained in deafblindness, building language and communication

skills, and intervention strategies with children who are deafblind and their community, families, and environment.

### **HB22-1240 Mandatory Reporters**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Froelich & Senators Fields and Simpson***

On September 15, 2021, the Office of Colorado's Child Protection Ombudsman [issued a brief](#) detailing its study of Colorado's mandatory reporting law and highlighting some key issues. HB22-1240 pulls together a diverse group of citizens and professionals for a task force to analyze and possibly recommend further improvements to the state's mandatory reporting system.

### **HB22-1090 Reasonable Independence For Children**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Ransom & Senators Buckner and Smallwood***

This bill will decrease unnecessary involvement in the child welfare system by making it clear that a child is not neglected when their parents or guardians allow them to do everyday activities such as walking to school, playing in the neighborhood, or going to a nearby store. It will reduce the fear experienced by many parents as they make decisions about what independence they give their children. While this bill provides common sense protections for all children and families it especially benefits low-income communities and communities of color who have been involved with the child welfare system at a much higher rate than other groups.

### **SB22-102 Transparency Out-of-home Placements Developmental Disabilities**

***Sponsors: Senator Kirkmeyer & Representative Young***

This bill addresses issues surrounding placements for youth with both an intellectual and developmental disability and significant behavioral health issues. The bill requires an appeals process involving children who are discharged before meeting their treatment goals. There also is a provision for data collection around bed utilization, success rates of treatment, etc. This will help ensure children with IDD and behavioral health get the best care possible.

### **HB21-1187 Long-term Services And Support Case Management Redesign**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Pelton & Senators Winter and Rankin***

This bill implements Conflict-Free Case management for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) receiving Long term supports and services in Colorado. This eliminates an individual receiving case management and direct services from the same agency. Unfortunately, in the past, some agencies would encourage individuals to receive services that weren't what they needed because it was a service the agency provided. This bill aims to create a one-stop-shop where an individual looking for long-term services and support can be looked at as a whole person to determine what services are available to them and allow them to access the Medicaid waiver(s) that are best fit for their case. Redesigning the system will make it less complicated for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to access the services they need when they need them in their own communities.

### **SB21-075 Supported Decision-making Agreement**

***Sponsors: Senators Gardner and Ginal & Representatives Tipper and Young***

This bill allows an adult with a disability to voluntarily enter into a supported decision-making agreement with a member of their supportive community as an alternative for or in addition to guardianship and conservatorship. Supportive decision-making agreements promote self-determination and independence by giving people with disabilities the help they need to make choices about their own lives.

**[SB21-099 Sunset License Plate Disability Support Act](#)**

***Sponsors: Senator Danielson & Representatives Young and Van Beber***

This bill continues the assistance program for disability benefits under the Laura Hershey Disability Support Act which combined two previously existing committees to form the Colorado Disability Funding Committee. This committee funds new and innovative programs, aids persons with disabilities in accessing disability benefits, and is authorized to utilize license plate registrations via auction.

**[SB21-107 Honoring Carrie Ann Lucas](#)**

***Sponsors: Senator Danielson & Representatives Young and McLachlan***

This bill renames CRS 24-34-805 the “Carrie Ann Lucas Parental Rights for People with Disabilities Act” after Carrie Ann Lucas who worked diligently on this statute. Carrie Ann Lucas was a force of nature and a gift to Colorado and the nation with her fierce and skilled advocacy. This renaming not only honors Carrie Ann Lucas and her important work for the disabilities community but also reminds us of the ongoing need to provide access to all aspects of a quality life especially parenting without discrimination.

**[HB20-1347 Licensure Exemption For Family Child Care Homes](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Jaquez Lewis & Senators Danielson and Hansen***

The act clarifies language and requirements related to the child care license exemption for family child care homes and extends the licensure exemption from September 1, 2020, to September 1, 2026.

**[HB20-1237 Medicaid Managed Care Assignment For Child Welfare](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Saine & Senators Moreno and Sonnenberg***

For a child or youth who obtains services under the state's medicaid program through the initiation of a dependency and neglect action or juvenile delinquency action resulting in out-of-home placement, the act requires the department of health care policy and financing (department) to assign the child or youth to the managed care entity (MCE) in the county in which the action was initiated. The department shall only change the MCE designation if requested by the county with jurisdiction over the action or the child's or youth's legal guardian.

**Supporting Older Coloradans:**

**[SB24-040: State Funding for Seniors](#)**

***Sponsors: Senators Danielson and Ginal & Representatives Willford and Young***

The bill mandates a triennial review, starting by August 2024, conducted by the Department of Human Services, the Office of State Planning and Budgeting, and representatives from area agencies on aging, to assess the sufficiency of appropriations for senior services over the preceding three fiscal years as per the "Older Coloradans' Act", with findings to be reported to the General Assembly.

**[SB23-144: Prescription Drugs for Chronic Pain](#)**

***Sponsors: Senator Ginal & Representatives Young and Mabrey***

This bill will remove barriers to access for needed medication for individuals with chronic pain, supporting our state's aging population, as well as Coloradans with disabilities.

**[SB23-058: Job Application Fairness Act](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Willford & Senators Danielson and Jaquez Lewis***

This legislation will create a fairer playing field for all workers by ensuring that applicants are judged on their merits and qualifications instead of their age, by eliminating the inclusion of age and graduation dates on initial job application forms.

**[SB23-196: Income Tax Credit for Retrofitting a Home for Health Reasons](#)**

***Sponsors: Senator Winter & Representatives Young and Ricks***

This bill extends an income tax credit that allows qualifying individuals to finance modifications to their home to increase its accessibility for persons with disabilities. These modifications help support aging Coloradans and Coloradans with disabilities who desire to live independently and age in place.

**[HB22-1035 Modernization Of The Older Coloradans' Act](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Bradfield & Senators Ginal and Rankin***

The purpose of this bill is to establish that Colorado is committed to implementing policies that energetically support older Coloradans, their families, and communities. The bill recognizes that older Coloradans want and need to take an active role in the development of these policies, not just be passive recipients of these policies. It empowers the Colorado Commission on Aging to make objective recommendations to the Department and its legislative designees in order to contribute directly to the continued implementation of the Strategic Action Plan on Aging through a shared leadership model with the State Office on Aging.

**[HB22-1209 Sunset Strategic Action Planning Group On Aging](#)**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Bradfield & Senator Woodward***

This bill repeals the Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging since their work is included in the restructuring of the Colorado Commission on Aging which is in HB22-1035 Modernization of the Older Coloradans Act.

**[SB22-079 Dementia Training](#)**

***Sponsors: Senators Kolker and Ginal & Representatives Young and McLachlan***

This bill helps make sure vulnerable adults are taken care of properly by requiring employees of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and adult day care facilities to take 4 hours of dementia training.

### **SB22-185 Security For Colorado Seniors**

***Sponsors: Senators Danielson and Buckner & Representatives Young and Lindsay***

This bill continues our commitment as a legislature to support the needs of older Coloradans. Last year I sponsored SB21-190 which established the Area Agency on Aging Grant Program which was set to expire this December. SB22-185 renames the grant program to the Strategic Investments in Aging Program which will expand funding to programs across the state that align with the strategic action plan on aging and makes the grant fund permanent.

### **Regulatory & Infrastructure:**

### **SB24-080: Transparency in Health Care Coverage**

***Sponsors: Senators Fields and Jaquez Lewis & Representative Young***

The bill mandates health insurance carriers to adhere to federal price transparency laws and offer an internet-based self-service tool for covered individuals to access real-time cost-sharing information, while also requiring carriers to submit necessary data to the insurance commissioner as per federal pharmacy benefit and drug cost reporting laws; non-compliance constitutes unfair insurance practices.

### **HB24-1276: Sunset Process Commission for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Bradfield & Senators Zenzinger and Lundeen***

The bill implements recommendations from the Department of Regulatory Agencies' 2023 sunset review and report on the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind by extending the commission's existence for 7 years until 2031, establishing a permanent state auxiliary services program, and renaming the Deafblind Citizens Council to the Deafblind Advisory Council.

### **HB24-1332: Sunset Continue Colorado Department of Early Childhood Executive Director Rule-Making**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Sirota & Senators Buckner and Michaelson Jenet***

The bill implements the Department of Regulatory Agencies' recommendation from its 2023 sunset review and report regarding the rule-making authority of the Executive Director of the Department of Early Childhood by extending the executive director's rule-making authority for 7 years until September 1, 2031.

### **SB23-155: Sunset Continue Nursing Home Administrators**

***Sponsors: Senator Zenzinger & Representatives Young and Willford***

This sunset bill extends the regulation of nursing homes in accordance with the recommendations of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA).

### **SB23-152: Sunset Continue Custom Processing Meat Animals**

***Sponsors: Senators Roberts and Pelton & Representatives Young and Holtorf***

This sunset bill continues the “Custom Processing of Meat Animals” Act for nine years and implements the recommendations of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA).

### **HB23-1156: Public Airport Authority Act Modernization**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Taggart & Senators Kolker and Pelton***

This bill makes technical changes to modernize the “Public Airport Authority Act,” which allows municipalities and counties to create an airport authority to operate an airport located within the county or municipality.

### **HB21-1045 Invasive Pest Control Administration**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Valdez & Senator Fields***

This bill creates the emergency invasive-pest response fund to be used to control or eradicate non-native invasive pests. These pests are of increasing concern with land-use changes and changes in environmental conditions. As a result, invasive pests may impact crops, plants, and trees. These funds can be used by the commissioner of agriculture to enter into an agreement with local governments to provide pest control services.

### **HB20-1213 Sunset Commodity Handler And Farm Products Acts**

***Sponsors: Representatives Young and Pelton & Senators Rodriquez and Sonnenberg***

The act implements recommendations of the department of regulatory agencies' sunset review and report on the licensing functions of the commissioner of agriculture (commissioner) regarding the "Commodity Handler Act" and the "Farm Products Act", with modifications

### **SB20-176 Protect Neutral Determinations In Health Insurance**

***Sponsors: Senators Danielson and Ginal & Representatives Titone and Young***

The act clarifies 2008 legislation prohibiting discretionary clauses in certain plans and insurance policies and providing for the de novo standard of review (roughly translated as "anew" or "from a clean slate") in any court

### **COVID-19 Stimulus:**

#### **HB21-1264 Funds Workforce Development Increase Worker Skills**

***Sponsors: Representatives Sullivan and Young & Senators Kolker and Hisey***

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to many people losing their jobs and those most impacted are those with the least amount of formal education or training beyond high school. This bill allocated \$75 million federal stimulus money to provide Coloradans with reskilling, upskilling, and next-skilling opportunities that lead to industry-recognized credentials and employment opportunities in growing industries that are looking to hire. \$17.5 million will be distributed to local workforce boards across the state for developing local workforce ecosystems, \$17.5 million will be allocated to the Colorado Workforce Development Council to enhance the statewide workforce ecosystem, \$10 million will be allocated to the Department of Higher Education for Career and Technical Education, and \$5 million will be allocated to the Colorado Department of

Education Adult Education and Literacy program.

### **SB21-204 Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Grant Program Funding**

***Sponsors: Senators Donovan and Rankin & Representatives Young and Van Beber***

This bill allocated funding for the REDI program which is designed to help rural communities comprehensively diversify their local economy and create a more resilient Colorado. This money can also be used for the Rural Economic Advancement of Colorado Towns (REACT) Act, a program to assist rural communities with job retention and creation as a result of significant community or regional economic events. The REDI program will be able to continue its critical work of revitalizing rural economies across the state.

### **SB21-290 Security for Colorado Seniors**

***Sponsors: Senators Danielson and Buckner & Representatives Young and Bradfield***

This bill puts money toward an Area Agency on Aging grant program for providing assistance to older Coloradans. Older Coloradans have suffered deeply during the COVID-19 pandemic, and many older Coloradans have become increasingly isolated upon losing access to their daily routines and social networks. Therefore, the Area Agency on Aging network has been a lifeline to constituents in every county.

### **SB20-222 Use CARES Act Money Small Business Grant Program**

***Sponsors: Senators Winter and Bridges & Representatives Young and Will***

The act creates a small business COVID-19 grant program, financed by \$20 million from the federal money allocated to the state pursuant to the federal "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act", also referred to as the "CARES Act".

### **SB20-220 Freeze Member Per Diem Amount**

***Sponsors: Senators Hisey and Garcia & Representatives Soper and Young***

The act freezes the amount to be paid to members who do not reside in the Denver metropolitan area to this current amount for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.