



2010 Colorado General Assembly Legislative Session Summary

Updated May 13, 2010



Healthy Living

Signed by the Governor

Senate Bill 81: Farm-to-school Interagency Task Force

By Sen. Paula Sandoval, D-Denver and Rep. Judy Solano, D-Brighton

SB 81 forms a Farm-To-School Task Force charged with studying and recommending policies and methods to implement farm-to-school programs. The legislation requires the task force to make recommendations on improving school kitchens, to allow schools to use fresh foods in school meals. SB 81 aligns with the Colorado Health Foundation's policy priority to increase access to healthy foods in schools.

Awaiting the Governor's Signature

House Bill 1147: Safer Streets for Non-motorized Transport

By Rep. John Kefalas, D-Fort Collins and Sen. Bob Bacon, D-Fort Collins

HB 1147, supported by the Colorado Health Foundation, requires the Department of Transportation to provide educational curriculum to schools about the safe use of streets. HB 1147 also requires the Department of Transportation to provide infrastructure that accommodates bicycle and pedestrian use of public streets. This legislation aligns with the Foundation's policy priority to promote the design of safe streets.

House Bill 1160: Health Insurance Wellness Incentives

By Rep. Joe Rice, D-Littleton, Sen. Shawn Mitchell, R-Broomfield and Sen. Linda Newell, D-Littleton

The Colorado Health Foundation supported HB 1160, which permits health insurers to offer premium discounts to individuals who achieve measurable results by participating in a wellness program. The bill provides for waivers for individuals with medical conditions that prohibit participation in wellness programs.

House Bill 1335: BOCES School Food Program

By Rep. Tom Massey, R-Poncha Springs and Sen. Paula Sandoval, D-Denver

HB 1335 authorizes Boards of Cooperative Educational Services to operate as a school food authority. This legislation would require participating BOCES to provide food that meets Institute of Medicine healthy school food standards. Group purchasing by BOCES could create economies of scale and increase purchasing power, making healthy and nutritious foods more affordable for

small schools. Massey initiated this legislation after hearing a presentation about the Garfield Re-2 School District's success at the Colorado Health Symposium. The Foundation was a primary proponent of this legislation alongside the Colorado Children's Campaign. House Bill 1335 aligns with the Foundation's policy priority to increase access to healthy foods for schools in rural areas through cooperative purchasing or other mechanisms.

Senate Bill 106: Food Systems Advisory Council

By Sen. Bob Bacon, D-Fort Collins and Rep. Marsha Looper, R-Calhan

LiveWell Colorado initiated SB 106, which aims to reduce segmentation of Colorado's food system by creating a council to identify and use food research to develop recommendations to improve Colorado's food system. The council is required to address food access and hunger issues. The Foundation supported this legislation.



Health Coverage

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House Bill 1004: Standardization of Health Insurance Information to Consumers

By Rep. Tom Massey, R-Poncha Springs and Sen. Joyce Foster, D-Denver

HB 1004 requires the Commissioner of the Division of Insurance to develop a standardized format for information for health benefit plans. Once the standards are developed, health insurers must provide information on benefit plans in the standard format. The Foundation supported HB 1004 because it will help clarify to consumers in their selection of adequate benefit plans.

Executive Order D 2: Streamlining Medicaid and CHP+ Enrollment through Data Sharing Agreements

By Gov. Bill Ritter (D)

The executive order directs certain state agencies to enter into data sharing agreements for the purpose of electronically verifying the citizenship of people applying for Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus. This executive order advances a key policy priority for the Foundation – to allow for sharing of information across departments for enrollment in Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus.

Executive Order D 6: Creating the Position of Director of Health Reform Implementation and the Interagency Health Reform Implementing Board

By Gov. Bill Ritter (D)

The executive order names Lorez Meinhold the director of national reform implementation for Colorado and establishes an Inter-Agency Implementation Board to be chaired by Joan Henneberry.

Awaiting the Governor's Signature

House Bill 1252: Updating Mammography Benefits

By Rep. Dianne Primavera, D-Broomfield; Sen. Gail Schwartz, D-Snowmass and Sen. Betty Boyd, D-Lakewood

Currently, Colorado law requires that breast cancer screening be covered in alignment with the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force "B" recommendation. This USPSTF recommendation is for biennial breast cancer screening for women aged 50 to 74. HB 1242 increases options for adequate coverage -- a policy priority for the Foundation -- by lowering the age to 40 to ensure breast cancer screening also is covered for women aged 40-49.

House Bill 1330: All-payer Health Claims Database

By Rep. John Kefalas, D-Fort Collins; Rep. Daniel Kagan, D-Denver and Sen. John Morse, D-Colorado Springs

HB 10-1330 requires HCPF to appoint an administrator to create an all-payer health claims database. An all-payer claims database assembles and stores medical, pharmacy and dental claims from health plans, third-party administrators, Medicaid and Medicare. The database aims to provide a complete picture of a person's experience within the health care system. The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing must appoint an advisory committee to make recommendations regarding the implementation of the database. The Foundation supported House Bill 1330.

House Bill 1332: Medical Clean Claims

By Rep. Joe Miklosi, D-Denver and Sen. Chris Romer, D-Denver

Among other provisions, HB 1332 requires that a task force develop a "standardized set of payment rules and claim edits" for payers. Currently, claim processes vary greatly among insurers, creating a significant administrative burden for providers.



Health Care

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House Bill 1138: Colorado Health Services Corps

By Rep. Sara Gagliardi, D-Arvida and Sen. John Morse, D-Colorado Springs

HB 1138 increases the effectiveness of the state's loan repayment fund for primary care providers. HB 1138 modifies the definition of "primary health services" to include oral health care services, exempts the selection of health care professionals for the program from the state's procurement code and repeals the state's \$35,000 per year limit on student loan repayment. The Foundation supported this legislation.

House Bill 1321: Health Care Services Fund Moneys

By Rep. Jack Pommer, D-Boulder and Sen. Abel Tapia, D-Pueblo

When safety net funding was cut during the 2009-10 fiscal year, the Health Care Services Fund was eliminated, which meant Colorado lost federal matching dollars. The Colorado Community Health Network worked with the Joint Budget Committee and other stakeholders to restore the fund and approximately \$17 million to federally qualified health centers and other safety net clinics. This legislation aligns with the Foundation's policy priority to support efforts to leverage funding for safety net clinics.