



**Colorado Consumer  
Health Initiative**



**2026**

**LEGISLATIVE  
SCORECARD**



20  
26

# LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

Colorado's \$1.5 billion budget deficit was the leading issue throughout the 2026 Colorado Legislative session. The enormous shortfall forced across-the-board cuts and difficult decisions for legislators, especially Joint Budget Committee members. After avoiding cuts to health care in the 2025 budget deficit, legislators were forced to make cuts to Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP) programs, especially Cover All Coloradans, as well as the state reserve fund and other departments. Little funding was available for new bills, meaning that any fiscal note likely doomed a bill to fail from the start.

State budget constraints were exacerbated by a decrease in federal funding and national cuts to health coverage made under H.R. 1 (a.k.a. "One Big Beautiful Bill"). These federal actions left Colorado with a financial hole too big for legislators to fill, and cuts to public health care coverage were unavoidable. In light of this reality, CCHI chose to be thoughtful partners in identifying areas to cut and collaborating with other health care advocates to bring an equity and consumer-focused lens to budget decisions.

In a financially strained environment, CCHI again chose to prioritize defense work over seeking to expand and improve existing health programs for Coloradans. As an organization, we testified 22 times, prioritized supporting the work of our partners, and doubled down on advocating on federal-level regulation and legislation.

CCHI took positions on 33 bills this session, ranging across health care issues, from medical debt to preventative services to addressing the role of monopolies in the health care sector. Several bills were aimed at increasing protections in the upstream social drivers of health, specifically immigration reform, tax equity, and economic justice. When evaluating bills, CCHI used an equity assessment tool to ensure we directed our resources to equitable, well-targeted policies as much as possible. We also prioritized bills brought directly to us by our partners and members. We supported 25 bills, of which 19 passed, and opposed and/or sought to amend 7 bills, of which 3 had the desired outcome. We took a monitor position on 1 bill, which failed.

In this report, we summarize legislation that addresses health care access and affordability, financing reform, industry abuses and consumer protections, social drivers of health, and workforce and delivery. The concerted efforts of CCHI staff, members, and individual Coloradans throughout the session paid off with notable wins for consumers to celebrate, as well as disappointing losses. The artificial constraints set on our state budget by TABOR, as well as the uncertain regulatory environment at the federal level, will set the stage for future work in the rest of 2026 and into 2027.

## ABOUT US

The Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) is a nonprofit, consumer-oriented, membership-based health advocacy organization that serves Coloradans whose access to health care and financial security are compromised by structural barriers, affordability, poor benefits, or unfair business practices of the health care industry.

## MISSION

CCHI advances the consumer voice to improve access to health care for all Coloradans by working statewide for progress toward equity, affordability and quality.

## VISION

All Coloradans have equitable access to affordable, high-quality health care.

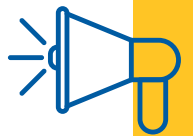
# LEGISLATIVE SESSION BY THE NUMBERS

CCHI took positions on **33** bills



**22** of the **33** bills had our desired outcome

CCHI staff testified at the Capitol **22** times



CCHI held **7** events over the course of session



CCHI staff provided **8** regulatory comments



Over **34** media mentions during session in state and national publications



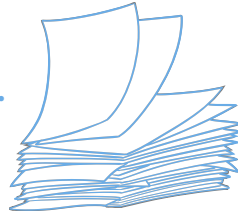
# ACCESS AND COVERAGE

While the Affordable Care Act has helped many Coloradans obtain health insurance, we know there are persistent systemic issues that hinder access to health services and cause Coloradans to avoid needed care. Patients should be able to access whole-person, culturally fluent care in their communities in a timely fashion without worrying about what it will cost. In Colorado, we continue to witness health disparities for Latinx, Black, unhoused, and rural communities in part due to these coverage gaps. Under the current federal climate of uncertainty and threats to longstanding health care rights, CCHI focused on policies that strengthened state safeguards and preserved access to existing health care coverage for Coloradans.

## SB26-138 Reducing Administrative Burdens on Health Care

Sen. Daugherty & Sen. Mullica | Rep. K. Stewart

Pro-consumer vote **Amend** | Status **Passed**



Industry groups came together to identify regulatory and legislative changes in one omnibus bill. Many harmful provisions that would have severely limited watchdog regulatory authority were amended out. We worked in good faith with hospitals to ensure proposed screening changes for Hospital Discounted Care expanded, not harmed, access for qualified patients.



## SB 140 Exempt Drugs from Prescription Drug Affordability Board Reviews

Sen. Frizell & Sen. Marchman | Rep. Gilchrist & Rep. Johnson

Pro-consumer vote **NO** | Status **Failed**

This bill would have excluded most qualifying prescription drugs from the Colorado Prescription Drug Affordability Board's (PDAB) review and upper payment limit setting processes. An almost identical effort to the 2024 bill, this bill would have severely limited the board's ability to address the root causes of high prescription drug costs.

## HB26 1069 Availability of Emergency Medical Services

Rep. Feret & Rep. K. Stewart | Sen. Mullica & Sen. Simpson

Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **Passed**



Many emergency responders could provide treatment more quickly and cheaply than transporting patients to an emergency room, but they are not allowed to bill for this care. This bill expands safe options for medical services and treatment beyond the emergency room where consumers are saddled with the highest costs.

## KEY BILLS >>>



### HB26 1411 Changes to Cover All Coloradans Program

Rep. Brown & Rep. Sirota | Sen. Amabile & Sen. Kirkmeyer

Pro-consumer vote **AMEND** | Status **Passed**

The Joint Budget Committee proposed disproportionate cuts to a program that serves children and pregnant people who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid if not for their immigrant status. CCHI took an amend position on this bill and advocated to reduce the disproportionate 25% cuts in the program. While we managed to increase the proposed caps on dental services from \$750 to \$1150, an enrollment cap and additional cuts to this program were ultimately adopted.

### HB 1019 Kidney Screening Mandatory Preventive Coverage

Rep. Lieder & Rep. Bacon | Sen. Roberts & Sen. Rich

Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **Passed**



Preventative services are important for patient access and long term health care costs. This bill adds kidney screening as a mandatory preventative service at no cost sharing for all individual and small group plans in Colorado. If signed, this requirement will go into effect Jan 1, 2028.

# FINANCING REFORM

Our profit-driven health care system is unaffordable, unsustainable, and inequitable. The U.S. has higher per capita expenditures and worse health outcomes than peer nations, and these systemic failings disproportionately weigh on consumers who face the biggest barriers to health care. Our Consumer Assistance Program frequently catches mistakes in medical billing statements and bureaucratic processes that are often inaccessible to consumers. Coloradans frequently lack comprehensive infrastructure, including access to behavioral health services, substance use treatment, and oral healthcare. Statewide, cost barriers limit access to care. CCHI reviewed and supported legislative efforts that incentivized the health care system to provide equitable access to quality care.

## KEY BILLS >>>

**State Employee Health Plan 2.0 - Budget Footnote**  
Rep. McCormick  
Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **Failed**



Advocates and sponsors pushed this effort to show legislators that the state could stave off other cuts and save taxpayers upwards of \$40 million by establishing fair rates for hospital care under the state employee health plan. Such policies will be vital to pass in the coming years as Coloradans struggle to afford care and our state faces budget shortfalls.

**SB26 178 Health Insurance Affordability Measures**  
Sen. Mullica & Sen. Jodeh | Rep. Brown & Rep. Gilchrist  
Pro-consumer vote **AMEND** | Status **Passed**



The Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise funds programs like reinsurance, Colorado Premium Assistance, and Omni-Salud that help make health coverage more affordable and accessible in Colorado for those who need it most. This bill was another stopgap measure to secure one year of funding for the enterprise with reserves and a bond. With an expensive one-time solution and no long-term plan, the stability of the enterprise and the essential programs it oversees remain in jeopardy. Further work is needed to ensure rural and low- and middle-income Coloradans do not lose access to care in 2028 and beyond.

**Tax Bill Package (HB 1221, 1222, 1223, 1289)**

Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **2/4 Passed**



Our partners at Colorado Fiscal Institute put together four bills which cleaned up niche portions of our tax code and aimed to create permanent funding for the Family Affordability Tax Credit. Unfortunately two of these bills died due to a veto threat and permanent funding was not established. The two bills that passed (HB 1223 & 1289) updated technicalities in the tax code and partially closed some corporate tax loopholes.



**No More Prisons Budget Advocacy**  
Rep. Camacho & Rep. Garcia | Sen. Daugherty & Sen. Jodeh

Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **Failed**

While the Colorado legislature has made cuts to many vital services, the Department of Corrections' budget has continued to increase despite falls in crime rates. Advocates pushed back on these actions, demanding an end to DOC budget increases and a reduction in prison beds. Unfortunately, legislators ignored these demands and granted a nearly \$70 million increase for DOC, which will be used to add over 900 new prison beds.

**HB26 1327 Large Company Fee for Public Programs**

Rep. Ferret | Sen. Mullica

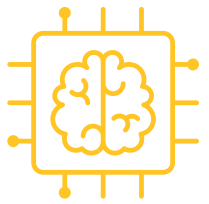
Pro-consumer vote **MONITOR** | Status **Failed**



Many low-wage employers do not provide health insurance to all of their employees. And they do not pay sufficient taxes to support programs like Medicaid that their workers rely on. This bill would have established a new enterprise where select large employers would pay per qualified employee. Funds would be spent on Medicaid and employer-sponsored health care programs. While the intent of the bill was positive, our membership was split between supporting trying something new and opposing risking workers' livelihood due to potential unintended consequences with the proposed language.

# INDUSTRY ABUSES AND CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

Through our members, Consumer Assistance Program, and Community Advisory Board, CCHI learns directly from consumers about their health care challenges. The health care system is complex, making it difficult for consumers to access coverage and care. The consolidated market emboldens health systems and hospitals to push increasingly high costs onto consumers, which contributes to the harmful cycle of financial toxicity. In 2026, CCHI engaged on the following legislative priorities to address ongoing problems in the areas of medical debt, consolidation, and protective guardrails on the use of artificial intelligence.



**SB26 189 Automated Decision-Making Technology**  
**Sen. Rodriguez & Sen. Coleman | Sen. Duran & Sen. Bacon**  
**Pro-consumer vote YES | Status Passed**

In 2024, the legislature passed a landmark AI regulation bill. Unfortunately, that bill proved nearly impossible to implement and required new legislation. After a long stakeholder process, the legislature passed SB26-189, which sets a new foundation for AI regulation and consumer protections in our state. The bill is focused on impactful decisions made in education, healthcare, employment, financial lending, and additional vital areas.



**HB26 1322 Civil Actions for Conversion Therapy Survivors**  
**Rep. Valdez & Rep. McCormick | Sen. Cutter & Sen. Mullica**  
**Pro-consumer vote YES | Status Passed**

In the wake of the Supreme Court decision, this bill strengthens consumer rights and protections by creating a civil cause of action to allow individuals to sue relevant parties for harm caused by conversion therapy. Importantly, since conversion therapy is often used on minors, there is no statute of limitations connected to this bill.



**HB26 1012 Consumer Protections to Promote Fair Market Pricing**  
**Rep. Zokaie & Rep. Brown | Sen. Lindstedt & Sen. Weissman**  
**Pro-consumer vote YES | Status Failed**

Increasingly large companies price goods and services at what they can force consumers to pay rather than at a fair price. This bill would have increased transparency and price regulation in situations where consumers have little to no bargaining power, such as in stadiums, hospitals and airports.

## KEY BILLS >>>



**SB26 041 Consumer Protections Medical Care Entities**  
**Sen. Kipp & Sen. Weissman | Rep. Brown & Rep. McCormick**  
**Pro-consumer vote YES | Status Failed**

Consolidation in health care has been linked with higher costs for consumers and can lead to fewer options for care. This bill would have expanded the Attorney General's authority to review mergers, acquisitions, and contract affiliations of health care companies. Due to pressure from the hospital association and private equity-backed provider groups, the bill did not pass.



**HB26 1267 Medical Debt Protection Act**  
**Rep. Joseph & Rep. Mabrey | Sen. Jodeh & Sen. Weissman**  
**Pro-consumer vote YES | Status Failed**

No one should lose their home, paycheck, or bank account just because they got sick. This bill would have aligned with other states in banning wage garnishments, liens on primary homes, and seizure of bank accounts with less than \$5000 in order to satisfy a medical debt.

# SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH

Addressing the conditions in which we live, work, and play is foundational in achieving racially just, healthy, and equitable communities. The rising cost of living exacerbates pre-existing structural barriers to accessing and achieving health for many Coloradans. CCHI reviewed legislative proposals that improve access to care and coverage through policies that keep Coloradans in community, improve language justice, and protect those Coloradans that face the greatest barriers to care.



**HB26 1143 Non-Employment Educational Opportunities Background Check Information**  
Rep. Ricks & Rep. Joseph | Sen. Weissman & Sen. Benavidez  
Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **Passed**

Requiring a social security number on background checks prevents many Coloradans without citizenship from participating in educational and volunteer experiences. This bill mandates the SSNs cannot be required on background checks for such non-employment roles and specifies other fields that may be requested instead.



**SB26 121 Overtime Threshold for Agricultural Employees**  
Sen. Rodriguez & Sen. Simpson | Rep. Martinez & Rep. Winter  
Pro-consumer vote **NO** | Status **Passed**

Agricultural workers have been systemically excluded from many worker protections in large part due to systematic racism. While Colorado took steps to address some of these inequities in 2021, this 2026 bill increases an unfair and unreasonable overtime pay threshold of exceeding 56 hours per week. After passing the House by only 1 vote, the Governor unfortunately signed the bill into law.



**HB26 1320 Accessible Language Statutory Ballot Title Requirements**  
Rep. Nguyen & Rep. García | Sen. Benavidez  
Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **Passed**

Ballot comprehension and language accessibility are key prerequisites for participating fully in Colorado's democracy. This bill mandates the use of plain language in ballot titles and provides suggestions on how to fulfill this requirement.

## KEY BILLS >>>



**Immigrant Rights Bill Package (HB 1275, 1276 & SB 005)**  
Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **2/3 Passed**

In response to the escalating attacks on our immigrant communities in Colorado, legislators brought three bills this session aimed at strengthening oversight of immigration enforcement and increasing safety for Coloradans. One of these three bills which required law enforcement officials to be clearly identified and unmasked died. HB 1276 and SB 005 passed; they strengthened action against law enforcement officials who break federal law, increased data privacy protections, and barred deportation actions in select public settings.

**HB26 1202 Strategy to Reduce & Prevent Homelessness**  
Rep. Rutinel & Rep. Sirota | Sen. Amabile & Sen. Marchman  
Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **Passed**



Colorado currently lacks a statewide approach to addressing homelessness. This bill requires the state to begin planning such an approach as well as provides localities with increased flexibility in pursuing their own initiatives.

# WORKFORCE AND DELIVERY

Barriers and cracks in the workforce pipeline are harming patient access to quality care, particularly for Coloradans who are most marginalized. Safe staffing, adequate compensation for all staff, and quality employee health coverage are necessary to create health facilities that have the capacity to provide quality care to consumers. Further, investing in community-grown workforces will result in workers who are better able to return linguistically and culturally fluent care to their communities. CCHI supported proposals that sought to reduce barriers for health providers and help Coloradans receive needed care from trusted professionals at the right place and right time.

## KEY BILLS >>>



### HB26 1002 Provider Participation in Health Insurance

Rep. Brown & Rep. Gilchrist | Sen. Ball & Sen. Pelton  
Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **Passed**

Despite existing network adequacy regulations, many Coloradans still struggle to find a mental health provider. This bill cleans up and strengthens processes to ensure providers can join networks faster and address “ghost networks,” where listed providers are no longer taking patients or in-network.

### HB26 1335 Abortion Medication Access on College Campuses

Rep. García & Rep. Nguyen | Sen. Wallace  
Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **Passed**



Although Colorado has many abortion protection laws, access remains an issue. This bill was brought by students who wanted to expand access to reproductive health care services by requiring most college campuses with health centers to provide medical abortions and requiring those who dispense drugs to stock abortion medication.

### HB26 1425 Applied Behavioral Analysis Services

Rep. Gilchrist & Rep. Brown | Sen. Daugherty & Sen. Bright  
Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **Passed**



In response to documented abuse of children in unlicensed facilities, this bill sought to address gaps in Applied Behavioral Analysis regulation. The bill established a Colorado Behavior Analyst Licensing Board, requires the creation of licensing standards for applied behavioral analysis clinics, and requires Medicaid providers to be reimbursed for services delivered by certified behavior technicians.



### HB26 1096 Colorado Medicaid Access to Primary Care Services

Rep. Johnson & Rep. Feret | Sen. Rich & Sen. Kipp  
Pro-consumer vote **NO** | Status **Failed**

The direct primary care model allows patients to pay a monthly fee to a provider for unlimited primary care services thereby bypassing insurance. Proponents hoped to loosen restrictions on billing Medicaid members for covered care to allow Medicaid enrollees to pay these fees. However, consumer advocates and aligned industry partners were greatly concerned about unintended consequences around financial burden and Medicaid provider loss.



### HB26 1429 County Administration Public Assistance Programs

Rep. Brown & Rep. Sirota | Sen. Bridges & Sen. Kirkmeyer  
Pro-consumer vote **YES** | Status **Passed**

The county-level administration of Medicaid and safety net programs in Colorado is expensive and often creates inefficiencies and inconsistencies. This bill aims to alleviate these barriers by creating a process to consolidate the administration of public assistance programs (like Medicaid) and streamlining benefit delivery between HCPF and county offices by 2028.

# SCORECARD

## BILLS WE SCORED

**HB26 1019**  
**Kidney Screening Mandatory Preventive Coverage**

This bill adds kidney screening as a mandatory preventative service at no cost sharing for all individual and small group plans in Colorado as of Jan 1, 2028.

**SB26 178**  
**Health Insurance Affordability Measures**

This bill is another stopgap measure to secure a year of funding for the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise which funds programs like reinsurance and Omni-Salud that help make health coverage more affordable and accessible in Colorado for those who need it most.

**SB26 189**  
**Automated Decision-Making Technology**

This bill sets a foundation for AI regulation in our state around impactful decisions made using AI in education, healthcare, employment, financial lending, and other vital areas.

**HB26 1322**  
**Civil Actions for Conversion Therapy Survivors**

This bill strengthens consumer rights and protections by creating a civil cause of action to allow individuals to sue relevant parties for harm caused by conversion therapy.

**HB26 1276**  
**Protect Safety of Individuals Who Are Immigrants**

This bill builds off existing laws to strengthen personal data privacy, regulates health and safety standards at detention facilities, and protects individuals moving between protected facilities.

**HB26 1002**  
**Provider Participation in Health Insurance**

This bill cleans up and strengthens processes to ensure mental health providers have an easier time joining networks and those listed in networks are still actively taking patients.

**HB26 1335**  
**Abortion Medication Access on College Campuses**

This bill was brought by students who wanted to combat access issues by expanding access to reproductive health care services on college campuses.

### What is the purpose of this scorecard?

The purpose of this scorecard is to inform CCHI's members, supporters, partners, and the public where our Colorado legislators stand when it comes to health care issues that affect consumers. While many policies are introduced each year to bring about change in our health care system, we want you to know which ones we believe are most important to creating equitable access to affordable high-quality health care for all Coloradans - and how your legislator voted on them. This scorecard is not an endorsement of any legislator or political party.

### How did we choose which bills to score?

In 2026, CCHI took positions on over 30 pieces of legislation. Due to budget constraints and difficulties stakeholdering many key consumer protections did not make it through the both chambers. Of those bills that did make it to both chambers, we chose ones that best aligned with our long term vision of an equitable, affordable, high-quality, and patient-centered health system in Colorado. These bills represent vital protections in the health care space and speak to the underlying climate of both federal uncertainty and budget concerns that we expect to continue to grapple with in the coming years.

### Key

- ✓ Yes vote
- ✗ No vote
- A Absent





# 2026 HOUSE VOTES

Representative	House District	HB26-1019	SB26-178	HB26-1322	SB26-189	HB26-1276	HB26-1002	HB26-1335	Score
Luck, Stephanie (R)	60	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%
Lukens, Meghan (D)	26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Mabrey, Javier (D)	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	100%
Marshall, Bob (D)	43	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	43%
Martinez, Matthew (D)	62	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Mauro, Tisha (D)	49	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
McCluskie, Julie (D)	13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
McCormick, Karen (D)	11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Nguyen, Keny (D)	33	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Paschal, Amy (D)	18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Phillips, Jacque (D)	31	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Richardson, Chris (R)	56	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	14%
Ricks, Naquetta (D)	40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Rutinel, Manny (D)	32	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Rydin, Gretchen (D)	38	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sirota, Emily (D)	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Slaugh, Scott (R)	64	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	14%







# 2026 SENATE VOTES

Senator	Senate District	HB26-1019	SB26-178	HB26-1322	SB26-189	HB26-1276	HB26-1002	HB26-1335	Score
Wallace, Katie (D)	17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Weissman, Mike (D)	28	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Zamora Wilson, Lynda (R)	9	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%

**TAKE ACTION**  
at [COHealthInitiative.org](https://COHealthInitiative.org)



**DONATE**



**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS**



**BECOME A MEMBER**



**VOLUNTEER**



Facebook: /COHealthAccess



Instagram: @COHealthAccess

