

## CCLP's 2014 primary legislative priorities passed: Landmark progress on reducing poverty, advancing opportunity

The Colorado Center on Law and Policy pursued an ambitious agenda during the 2014 General Assembly session to secure pathways from poverty for struggling families in Colorado. CCLP's legislative priorities can be divided into two categories—our primary agenda and other significant poverty reduction bills we worked on and tracked through the legislative session. CCLP staff played a lead role on all nine of the primary agenda bills listed below, from conception of the idea all the way through final passage in both houses of the legislature, serving as the lead advocate on some, and building coalitions of supporters. All of these bills passed.

PRIMARY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES				
Bill Number, Sponsors	Title	Summary	Position	Status
<a href="#">SB14-187</a> Sen. Aguilar Sen. Roberts Rep. Stephens Rep. Schafer	Colorado Commission Affordable Health Care	Creates a commission to study the principal factors that drive health care costs in Colorado, and it will recommend to the General Assembly solutions for reducing health care costs.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">HB14-1072</a> Rep. Pettersen Rep. Exum Sen. Kefalas	Income Tax Credit for Child Care Expenses	Provides tax relief for the poorest working families to help offset the high cost of child care.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">HB14-1085</a> Rep. Fields Sen. Zenzinger	Adult Education and Literacy Programs	Provides state support for adult basic education for the first time and requires adult education programs to connect students with job-training entities.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">SB14-012</a> Sen. Kefalas Rep. Exum	Aid to the Needy Disabled Program	Provides an eight percent increase in the monthly AND benefit and creates a pilot program designed to improve AND efficiency.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">SB14-050</a> Sen. Aguilar Rep. Moreno	Financial Assistance in Colorado Hospitals	Ensures low-income hospital patients are informed about the availability of financial assistance, and that hospitals comply with the minimum standards set in the Hospital Discount Program established in 2012.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">SB14-087</a> Sen. Ulibarri Rep. Fields	Identification Card Issuance Standards	Eases the legal process for a name change for people 70 and older, which will make it easier for some seniors to more quickly secure a photo ID.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">SB14-003</a> Rep. Pettersen Sen. Nicholson	Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, cliff effect	Provides funding for counties to test solutions to the cliff effect – the loss of all child care benefits when parents' income grows slightly.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">HB14-1317</a> Rep. Duran Sen. Nicholson Sen. Kefalas	Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, improvements	Makes many improvements to the state's child care assistance program, including lowering the cost of child care for the poorest working families and providing child care payment assistance for parents in workforce training or college classes.	Support	Passed
JBC bill	Long Bill, budget request	Funds Medicaid for pregnant lawfully present immigrant women and children in Medicaid and CHP+. This budget action provides benefits to lawful permanent residents who have had to wait 5 years before becoming eligible for Medicaid/CHP+.	Support	Passed

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT POVERTY REDUCTION BILLS

Bill Number Sponsors	Title	Summary	Position	Status
<a href="#">SB14-194</a> JBC bill	Driver's License Fee Allocations	Includes a provision that expands Exceptions Processing from one to four DMV offices in Colorado to help people more easily access photo IDs.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">HB14-1053</a> Rep. McCann Sen. Aguilar	Consistent Requirements Pediatric Dental Benefits	Ensures consistency of pediatric dental care purchased through the health benefits exchange.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">SB14-016</a> Rep. Moreno Sen. Aguilar	CDPHE Regulate Freestanding Emergency Centers	An effort to control health care costs by requiring freestanding emergency rooms not charge hospital facility fees unless they are affiliated with, or part of, a hospital.	Support	Defeated
<a href="#">SB14-037</a> Rep. Wright Rep. Nordberg Sen. Marble	ATM Withdrawals of Public Benefits	Would have prohibited the recipients of public benefits from receiving their benefits through ATMs at strip clubs and pot shops.	Oppose	Defeated
<a href="#">HB14-1106</a> Rep. Nordberg Rep. Wright	Tax Deduction For Affordable Care Act Penalty	Would have undermined health reform by allowing people to claim a state income tax credit equal to the tax penalty for being uninsured.	Oppose	Defeated
<a href="#">HB14-1134</a> Rep. Joshi Sen. Baumgardner	Health Care Navigator Registration Act	Would have added redundant and unnecessary requirements to the process of becoming a Health Coverage Guide through Colorado's health benefits exchange.	Oppose	Defeated
<a href="#">SB14-040</a> Sen. Brophy Rep. Szabo	Interstate Sales Individual Health Benefit Plans	Would have weakened Colorado's minimum health insurance benefit standards by requiring the health benefits exchange to sell plans approved by other states, including states that have less comprehensive coverage for consumers.	Oppose	Defeated
<a href="#">HB14-1135</a> Rep. Joshi Sen. Lundberg	Restrict General Fund Medicaid Expansion	Would have prohibited the use of General Fund money to pay for the expansion of Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act.	Oppose	Defeated
<a href="#">HB14-1015</a> Rep. Kraft-Tharp Sen. Kerr	Extend Transitional Jobs Program	Extends the ReHire Colorado program, which was created last year, to 2017. ReHire provides subsidized transitional jobs for unemployed workers.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">HB14-1017</a> Rep. Duran Sen. Ulibarri	Expand Availability of Affordable Housing	Creates additional sources of revenue for the Housing Investment Trust Fund, and expands the tax credit for developers who build low-income housing.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">HB14-1061</a> Rep. Salazar Sen. Guzman	Eliminate Prison for Inability to Pay Fines	Prohibits judges from imprisoning defendants for being unable to pay fines related to appearing in court.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">HB14-1115</a> Rep. Stephens	Medicaid Expansion Private Insurance Pilot Program	Would have established a pilot program that would enroll some Medicaid clients in health care plans offered through the health benefits exchange.	Oppose unless amended	Defeated
<a href="#">SB14-005</a> Sen. Ulibarri Rep. Singer	Wage Protection Act	Strengthens provisions to ensure that workers are paid the compensation they earn, and provides a method for collecting unpaid wages.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">SB14-014</a> Sen. Kefalas Rep. Pettersen	Prop Tax Rent Heat Fuel Grants for Low-Income Coloradans	Raises the income limit for qualifying for the Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate program to nearly \$13,000 for an individual and more than \$17,000 for a couple, and increases the amount of the benefit.	Support	Passed
<a href="#">HB14-1377</a> Rep. Ferrandino Rep. Buckner Sen. Steadman Sen. Tochtrop	Colorado Retirement Security Task Force	Would have created a task force to study ways to increase the number of Coloradans who have adequate savings for retirement.	Support	Defeated