



## 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><br>Sen. Aguilar<br>Sen. Roberts<br>Rep. Stephens<br>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><br>Rep. Pettersen<br>Rep. Exum<br>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><br>Rep. Fields<br>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><br>Sen. Kefalas<br>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><br>Sen. Aguilar<br>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><br>Sen. Ulibarri<br>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><br>Rep. Pettersen<br>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><br>Rep. Duran<br>Sen. Nicholson<br>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<br>Sponsors  | Title  | Summary   | Position              | Status   |
|--|--|---|-----------------------|----------|
| <a href="#">SB14-194</a><br>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><br>Rep. McCann<br>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><br>Rep. Moreno<br>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><br>Rep. Wright<br>Rep. Nordberg<br>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><br>Rep. Nordberg<br>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><br>Rep. Joshi<br>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><br>Sen. Brophy<br>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><br>Rep. Joshi<br>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><br>Rep. Kraft-Tharp<br>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><br>Rep. Duran<br>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><br>Rep. Salazar<br>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><br>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><br>Sen. Ulibarri<br>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><br>Sen. Kefalas<br>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><br>Rep. Ferrandino<br>Rep. Buckner<br>Sen. Steadman<br>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 |