

DENVER WOMEN'S COMMISSION

2011 BILL POSITIONS

Bill	Position	Information
SB 04	Support	<p>Concerning Crimes Against Homeless Persons</p> <p>This bill would add homeless to the list of protected classes protected in our hate crimes statutes. Crimes against the homeless because they are homeless exceed all other hate crimes combined.</p>
SB 08	Support	<p>Aligning Medicaid Eligibility for Kids</p> <p>This bill would have all qualified children 18 and under covered by Medicaid up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level. Currently children 0-5 years old are covered by Medicaid up to 133% of Federal Poverty Level, while children 6-18 below 100% of FPL are covered by Medicaid. Those from 6-18 between 100% and 133% of FPL are now covered by Child Health Plan. This change simplifies things for families by having uniform coverage for children regardless of age.</p>
SB 63	Support	<p>HEALTH CARE IN LOCAL GOV MASTER PLANS</p> <p>The Bill encourages, but does not require, local governments to consider health care needs in composing their comprehensive plans. Colorado's population is expected to increase by nearly 50% by 2035. Our population is also aging. Gaps in health care vary by county, making health care access an appropriate topic for local comprehensive planning. An anticipated amendment will link in local public health department plans to this process.</p>
SB 177	Support	<p>SUNSET TEEN PREGNANCY & DROPOUT PROGRAM</p> <p>The Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention Program is a State authorized Medicaid program, currently operating in only two locations – Mesa County and Montrose. This sunset review bill requires Health Care Policy and Finance to collaborate with other government entities and nonprofit organizations to evaluate, promote and expand the program.</p> <p>Under this program, local dollars – from non-profits, United Way, local governments, etc—are matched 9 to 1 by the Federal government. Such programs can use a variety of education and counseling methods to reduce teen pregnancy.</p> <p>Over the last 4 years, 26,000 babies have been born to Colorado girls under 20.</p> <p>Nationally, about 1/3 of young women who drop out of school say that becoming a parent was a major factor in their decision to discontinue their education. Women who drop out of school earn \$6000 less each year than women who graduate from high school.</p>
SB 126	Support	<p>UNSUBSIDIZED IN-STATE TUITION</p> <p>It would create a new classification of students at state supported institutions of higher education: “unsubsidized in-state student for tuition purposes.” Students without documentation of lawful immigration or nationality status would qualify for in-state tuition rates if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They attended a Colorado high school for at least 3 years. 2. They are admitted to a school of higher education within one academic year following graduation or obtaining a GED. 3. They have applied for lawful status, or will do so as soon as they are eligible. <p>Unlike other in-state students, these students would not be eligible for the College Opportunity Fund or state funded need based financial aid. The fiscal note reflects positive tuition gains, since most students expected this bill passes are currently not attending college due to high nonresident rates.</p> <p>The Denver Women's Commission supports this bill out of concern for the economic self-sufficiency of young Denver women who are undocumented. Without hope for future educational opportunity, young women are likely to leave school early when needed for care giving responsibilities-- teen motherhood or caring for young siblings or older relatives. (<i>“Girls Tend to Stop Going; Boys Get Told not to Come Back: A Report on Gender and the Dropout Problem in Colorado Schools”</i> A report by the Women's Foundation of Colorado. October 2010. www.wfco.org).</p> <p>The passage of the bill would offer a possible future beyond motherhood and caregiving.</p>
SB 72	Support	<p>CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT ACT</p> <p>This bill would add teeth to Colorado's existing civil right laws. It is similar to last year's HB 1269 which we endorsed, but which failed in the House by one vote. But it does add a three year period for employer education prior to the addition of penalties for intentional employment discrimination.</p> <p>This bill does not make anything illegal employment discrimination which is not currently illegal employment discrimination. It simply adds more remedies, or consequences. Currently a woman who wins her case of illegal</p>

		<p>employment discrimination- often after years- can at most receive her back pay or reinstatement. This may not even be enough to cover her attorney's fees. A victim of sexual harassment who does not quit her job may be awarded nothing at all. This bill would add the possibility of someone being awarded attorney fees or punitive damages.</p> <p>As a society we say we abhor discrimination. Therefore, there should be real consequences for illegal employment discrimination.</p>
HB 1080	Support	<p>ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM</p> <p>The Denver Women's Commission voted to support HB 1080. The Bill from the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence address two issues which has arisen in Colorado's address confidentiality program. This program protects victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking by providing a substitute address through the Secretary of State. About 800 Coloradans, mostly women and children are in the program. This bill would simplify the 5 year renewal process. Current language requires reapplication, putting a burden on victim to go back to the non-profit organization to again prove the need for address confidentiality. Most states use a simple renewal request process.</p> <p>The bill would also prohibit posting on the internet real property ownership information for anyone in the program. Victims in this program fear ever owning property in their own name since the risk that an easy search of the internet by the perpetrator could reveal their location. This is what is currently done to protect law enforcement officers, judges and others in the criminal justice system.</p>
HB 1003	Oppose	<p>DEFINE ID FOR VOTING - <i>KILLED</i></p> <p>This bill would require election-related identification to be a photo ID issued by a government. The bill assumes a problem of voter impersonation- a person voting in another person's name. There is no documentation of this being a problem.</p> <p>Yes. Most citizens have an ID with a photo issued by a governmental entity. But some people do not. Low income individuals, seniors, young people and people with disabilities are more likely to lack a photo ID. For those without a government-issued photo identification, it is a significant burden to take time off during business hours, find transportation to offices that issue ID and find the money to pay for the application fees, transportation and supporting documents.</p> <p>Of all Americans without a driver's license:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/5 are 18-24 year olds 1/3 are seniors Over 70% are women. <p>We should not take disenfranchisement lightly. All eligible voters should be able to participate in elections.</p>
HB 1019	Support	<p>Waiver of Copayments and deductibles by School Based Health Centers – <i>LAW</i></p> <p>This new laws removes the requirement that School Based Health Centers collect a copay for services. This copay has been a barrier to students to receive health service at their school clinic.</p>
HB 1025	Oppose	<p>Repeal the Hospital Provider Fee – <i>KILLED</i></p> <p>This bill would have repealed the recently enacted hospital provider fee. This fee, when matched with federal funds provides about \$1 billion dollars to provide Medicaid, Child Health Plan and other medical services.</p>