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Possible 2012 Legislation

This is a list of legislative ideas expected or being discussed. It is subject to constant change. The Colorado legislative session begins January 11, 2012. Introduced bills will be available of the state Legislative website: www.leg.state.co.us

1. **Fairness in Divorce** – Formulaic guidelines for court ordered spousal support upon finalization of divorce. Divorce is by far the #1 reason women fall out of the middle class.
2. **Health Care Exchange Implementation** – Design and Implementation of Colorado Health Care Exchange. Issues include:
 - **Horizontal Integration**- Coordination between eligibility determination for Premium subsidies for individuals, Medicaid and Child Health plan and other Department of Human Services Programs like SNAP (food stamps), TANF(Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), OAP (Old Age Pension) , Aid to the Needy Disabled, etc.
 - **Benefit design and Policy Offerings** –Particularly as it related to women's health care services.
 - **Aligning current law with the Affordable Care Act**- e.g. raising dependent-eligible age from 25 to 26; adjusting appeals timelines..
 - **Payment reform**
 - **"Essential Community Provider"**- how are they treated under implementation
 - **Abortion policies** – Fighting additional restrictions
3. **TANF Funding Cuts** – Loss of the Federal TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) supplemental fund and the TANF Emergency fund (not renewed by Congress) and rising caseloads are overwhelming the system. There is not enough TANF money to fund Basic Cash Assistance and work supports like child care assistance and job preparation. Some TANF dollars historically have been transferred to help fund Child Care and Child Welfare, but that may no longer be possible.

TANF Omnibus Bill – may include expansion of what is considered a work activity; remove barriers to TANF and other work supports.
4. **Victim Rights Amendments Updates** – Modernization of the Victim Rights Amendments. Particular issue of interest is the rights of victims to be informed about U Visas. Should Trafficking victims be added?
5. **Stalking** – Broadening the stalking laws. Currently, few cases of stalking meet the legal threshold.
6. **Sexting** – Determining the most appropriate societal response to situations in which sexting between minors is forwarded without permission of the subject to third parties. "Victims" can be charged, caught up. Currently considered Child porn—Felony 3. How do we address without lessening real child porn
7. **Trafficking** –Confiscation of property used in criminal activity. Proceeds to benefit victim services.

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8. **Domestic Violence** – Potentially a controversial bill regarding mandatory arrest based on probable cause in cases of domestic violence. May attempt to carve out lower level cases from this approach.
9. **Dental Coverage** for pregnant women under Medicaid
10. **Civil Unions** – Add legal recognition – and state level rights similar to opposite sex married couples -- for same sex couples.
Same Sex Adoption Equality – may be part of Civil Union Bill , or a separate bill.
11. **Court Appointed Professionals**- Require disclosure of potential conflicts of interest and relationships with the parties involved in a domestic relations case. Would apply to Parent Coordinators, Court Financial Investigators, etc.
12. **Asset Bill** – Residents of Colorado should get in-state tuition rates based on residency versus citizenship.
13. **Foreclosures** -- Could include elements to promote loan modification, and require owners of foreclosed properties to maintain properties. Possibly 3 bills, including last year's to fund Foreclosure Hotline through Foreclosure Fees. One fifth of Colorado homeowners under water on mortgage.
14. **Tenant/Landlord Rights** – there may be a bill to look at rebalancing the rights of tenants and landlords.
15. **Tax Credits and Tax Increment Financing** – The State foregoes millions in revenues from TIF, Enterprise Zones and other tax breaks. What are we getting in return? Perhaps Tax credits to help struggling families like the State Earned Income Tax Credit or a Child Tax Credit would better align with State interests.
16. **Poverty Impact Statement** – On a limited number of bills , require analysis on their impact on poverty rates.
17. Allow Eligible State Employees to utilize **Child Health Plan**.
18. **Hospital Mergers** – Protecting patients' access to the full range of medical options
19. **School discipline policy** (Especially implications for sexual assault incidents)- Interim Committee Proposals
20. **Early Childhood Education Commission**—New Department of Human Services Office
 - a. Nurse Home Visit
 - b. Colorado Child Care Assistance Program
21. **Child Care Cliff Effect** – work with families whose income grows above the eligibility cap, to gradually taper off child care subsidies with increasing parental copayments over time.
22. **Senior Tax Relief** – Governor proposing doubling the Property Sales/Rent Tax Rebate for Seniors and People with Disabilities (means tested) in lieu of reinstating the Senior Homestead Tax Credit.
23. **Voting** – there may be an attempt to add additional I.D. requirements in order to vote.
24. **Eliminate death penalty** (Maybe 2012-2013); 51 women on death row in US
25. **Colorado Anti-Discrimination Law** – Align Colorado law with federal anti-discrimination law. Add “teeth” to Colorado’s existing civil rights law. Remove the upper limited for employment discrimination based on age. For reintroduction in 2013.