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DENVER WOMEN'S COMMISSION BILL RECOMMENDATIONS **March 2010**

SB 6- Identification Documents Reduce Poverty-

This bill would allow county departments of human services to get the fees for certified copies of birth certificates waived for clients as such documents are required by law in order to receive public benefits. The bill would also allow judges on a case by case basis to allow felons to change their names if needed to get official state identification documents. Any "aliases" or nicknames would need to be noted with law enforcement.

SB 28 - Workshare Program

This bill would allow employers who choose to reduce hours of their workforce instead of laying off individuals to allow those workers to collect pro-rated unemployment insurance prorated on the reduced hours. This approach to saving jobs and preserving the workforce would be time-limited.

With six applicants for each open job in the US today, hours reduction in lieu of layoffs makes sense for both employees and their employers.

SB 140 - Human Trafficking

This bill moves the crime of trafficking under the state's organized crime statutes and specifies that these offenses qualify as "racketeering". This should help with enforcement. Only a handful of cases have been prosecuted under current law.

HB 1252 - Breast Cancer Screening with Mammography

In 2009, the Legislature adopted as a guide for insurers the recommendations for cancer screening from the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force. Last fall, the Task Force issued a very controversial guideline, moving from recommending mammography at age 40 to age 50. Most other medical bodies immediately disagreed. While the announcement has not changed insurance practices yet, coverage for mammograms for those under 50 could be denied without this bill. It would ensure that a medically recommended mammogram would still be covered, even for those under 50.



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SB 7 - Collaborative Mgmt Multi Agency Services

This bill is from the State's Economic Opportunity and Poverty Reduction Task Force.

Helps break down "silos" of different services to the same families.

Specifies that community colleges, early childhood councils, boards of cooperative services, regional service councils, family resource centers, and workforce centers may also enter into agreements with county department of human services that are design to promote a collaborative system on local level interagency oversight groups and individualized service and support teams to coordinate and manage the provision of services to children and families who would benefit from integrated multiagency services

HB 1023 - Employer Liability Negligent Hiring

This bill is from the State's Economic Opportunity and Poverty Reduction Task Force.

About 10,000 people per year are released from Colorado prisons. Half settle in Metro Denver. Finding employment is very difficult. Many employers say they would consider hiring someone with a record, but are afraid of being sued if that individual does anything wrong.

This bill clarifies existing case law. It prohibits information concerning an employee's criminal history from being introduced as evidence in a civil action against an employer when:

- the criminal history is not related to the facts of the case
- the employee's record is sealed
- the employee received a pardon, or
- the employee's record is from an arrest or charge that did not result in a criminal conviction.

HB 1022 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Administration

This bill is from the State's Economic Opportunity and Poverty Reduction Task Force.

As amended, has the State seek a waiver to eliminate the Food Stamp Asset test. Asset tests are cumbersome to administer. Asset tests often prevent seniors and others with modest assets to get food stamps, even when their income falls below federal poverty level.





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Also calls for the development of a Food stamp outreach plan, paid for with gifts grants and donations. Specifies that the State Department of Human Services will implement the outreach plan, contingent on use of federal Department of Defense food stamp dollars to help cover increase caseload staff necessary.

HB 1017- Voluntary Agreement Affecting Residential Pvt Res Program

This bill is from the State's Economic Opportunity and Poverty Reduction Task Force.

It clarifies that the State rent control statute applies only to residential housing units. It also clarifies that nothing in the rent control statute shall prohibit or restrict the right of a property owner and a state, county municipal or housing authority agency from voluntarily entering into and enforcing an agreement that controls rent on a private residential housing unit, whether the agreement is entered into before, on or after the effective date of the bill.

