



**COLORADO**  
Department of Human Services

## Support the At-Risk Adults Protection Act

Colorado has one of the fastest growing aging populations in the U.S.

Colorado's population age 65 and older is expected to more than double, increasing from 500,000 in 2010 to 1.2 million in 2030.

17,743 Adult Protective Services (APS) reports were filed in Colorado in FY15-16

Since the 2014 mandatory reporter law went into effect, the number of reports received by APS has increased 60% statewide.

### **Problem**

- Statute does not require a check of the Adult Protective Services (APS) data system for people working with at risk adults.
- There is no way to determine if an employee has a substantiated finding of abuse, neglect, or exploitation in an APS case.
- Employers could hire a perpetrator to care for at-risk adults and not know of any findings of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

### **Solution**

- Require certain types of employers to **check the Colorado Adult Protective Services (CAPS)** data system when hiring a new employee working with an at-risk adult.
- Help **prevent a perpetrator** of abuse, neglect, or exploitation from **moving from facility to facility**—putting our most vulnerable individuals at-risk.
- Include **ample due process** for those found to have harmed an at-risk adult. Any person found to have harmed an at-risk adult will be notified and have a chance to appeal.
- **Weed out bad actors** working with Colorado's at-risk adults; including persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, dementia, brain injury, and other conditions that make adults susceptible to mistreatment.

### **Reduce the risk of mistreatment in facilities that care for at-risk adults**

\*Statutory definition of an At-Risk Adult: an individual eighteen years of age or older who is susceptible to mistreatment or self-neglect because the individual is unable to perform or obtain services necessary for his or her health, safety, or welfare, or lacks sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions concerning his or her person or affairs. 26-3.1-101(1.5) C.R.S.

\*For more information on APS Background Checks, please contact Riley Kitts, CDHS' legislative liaison, at 720.966.0595 or [riley.kitts@state.co.us](mailto:riley.kitts@state.co.us)