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Each year the Colorado Senior Lobby reviews legislation introduced in the General Assembly for impacts on Colorado's older adults. The Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL) selects bills to support or oppose along with bills to monitor based on an assessment of that impact. This past session, CSL took positions on 66 bills. Legislators were notified by written letter of our positions. In some cases, our volunteer members testified at committee hearings.

Each year CSL also presents a review of the Colorado state legislative session. In previous years, that review has included a Legislative Scorecard showing the voting record of Colorado House and Senate members on key senior issues. The Legislative Scorecard catalogues the votes of every one of the 100 state legislators on those bills and reports the percentage of the time each legislator voted in agreement with the Senior Lobby's position.

This year, we have decided to publish the session review without the Legislative Scorecard. After selecting several bills for consideration, we realized the scorecard reflected near unanimous support for each bill in both the House and the Senate. On one hand, that's a good thing! However, it doesn't completely reflect the nature and tenor of the session.

Of the 66 bills on which CSL took a position, we supported 42, monitored 22 and opposed 2 bills. Of the bills CSL supported, 30 were enacted. Of the bills CSL opposed, one was enacted and one was killed in committee.

Also, this was one of those sessions when several bills passed in one house but were killed in committee in the second house. This was the case for 12 bills that passed the House but were killed in committee in the Senate and 3 bills that passed the Senate but were killed in committee in the House. This usually was because the Republicans led the Senate and the Democrats led the House. As a result many bills died along party lines, at the same time, four of the House bills CSL

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LEGISLATION BEGINS WHEN THE FEAR OF DOING NOTHING AT ALL FINALLY TRUMPS THE TERROR OF DOING IT BADLY, OR NOT AT ALL. Paraphrased from Alain De Botton, author

supported were killed in the first House committee and five of the Senate bills CSL supported were killed in the first Senate committee.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Colorado Senior Lobby is a non-partisan advocacy organization and does not endorse candidates. It is our goal to reach out to both parties and encourage all legislators to support the matters we consider important to the well-being of older adults in Colorado. This review is published for informational and educational purposes.

Following are descriptions of the budget issues and the bills we considered to be the most important because of the significance of their impact on older adults in Colorado. Although we are not publishing the Legislative Scorecard this year, we do include in each bill description a list of those legislators who voted against the CSL position on that bill.

State Budget: Mixed Success

The good news: State Funding for Senior Services (SFSS) was increased by \$1.5 million. Pursuant to HB 12-1326, funds in excess of those set aside in the budget to reimburse counties for lost revenues attributed to the exemption are to be set aside for senior services, instead of flowing back to the General Fund. This is the first year an excess became available.

Not so good news: Every year there are challenges in balancing the state budget and the 2016 legislative session was no exception. While the FY 2016-17 budget marked the fourth year in a row the General Assembly enjoyed additional revenue available to fund state priorities, various factors converged to limit this. The budget season began with concerns that state revenues would exceed the TABOR revenue cap and any additional revenues would have to be set aside for rebates. This meant instead of discussing restoring cuts made in previous years or any new initiatives, any contemplated investments in state priorities, including services for seniors, could not be implemented. **CSL supported HB16-1420 (Rep. Hullinghorst & Sen. Crowder), which passed the House but failed in the Senate. The bill would have redesigned the “Hospital Provider Fee” from a fee to an enterprise, making it exempt from TABOR. The bill would have freed up over \$600 million in the General Fund and eased the pressure on state revenues in future years, allowing the state to use those revenues for other state priorities.**

Bills Senior Lobby Supported

Bills that Passed

HB16- 1027 Video Deposition for At-Risk Elders (Rep. Danielson/Sens. Todd & Sonnenberg). The bill expands and streamlines the allowable use of recorded depositions for at-risk elders. The bill changes the wording of state statutes to allow a "recording" of depositions rather than strictly "video-tape" depositions. It allows the prosecution to request (the defense can challenge the motion) taking a deposition of an at-risk adult victim or witness if the victim or witness may be unavailable at trial. An at-risk elder is defined as any person 70 years of age or older. **CSL is a long time advocate for strong laws against older adult abuse and neglect. We supported this bill because it gives victims and prosecutors an additional procedural tool to further their cases.**

HB16-1097 PUC Permit for Medicaid Transportation Providers (Rep. Coram/Sen. Scott). The bill allows providers of non-emergency transportation to Medicaid clients to operate under a limited regulation permit from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Under current law, such transportation providers must operate under a more complicated certificate of public convenience and necessity. To obtain a limited regulation permit under the bill, providers must submit an application, pay a fee, and show proof of an agreement with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) regarding the provision of non-emergency transportation services. Permits for this class of provider are valid for one year. **CSL supported this bill because it will help nonemergency transportation providers, especially in rural areas, to meet one of the most important needs for older adults.**

HB16-1386 Necessary Document Program (Rep. Kraft-Tharp/Sen. Steadman). The bill creates the "Necessary Document Program" in the Office of Health Equity in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The purpose of the program is to help Colorado residents who are low-income, disabled, homeless, elderly, victims of domestic violence, or impacted by a natural disaster to pay the fees to acquire a necessary document. Necessary documents are defined as Social Security cards, driver's licenses, identification cards, or a vital statistics report (such as a birth, death, or marriage certificate). **CSL supported this bill because difficulty in obtaining necessary documents often acts as an obstacle to Colorado's older adults in being able to qualify for and receive benefits.**

SB 16-190 Improve County Admin Public Assistance Programs (Sen. Steadman/Rep. Rankin). The bill establishes performance standards to improve the administration of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Department of Human Services (CDHS) and counties must endeavor to exceed federal performance measures and must establish a formula for distributing federal monetary bonuses or sanctions associated with SNAP administration to the counties. CDHS is required to contract with an external vendor to collect and analyze data

related to county department costs and performance associated with the administration of public assistance programs, including: SNAP; Medicaid; the Children's Basic Health Plan; Colorado Works Program; Program for Aid to Needy Disabled; Old-Age Pension Program; and long-term care services. **CSL supported the bill because it will improve access to food assistance and improve state and county administration of other benefit programs important to Colorado's older adults.**

SB16-199 Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (Sens. Scott & Steadman/ Reps. DelGrosso & Ginal) This bill creates an ombudsman program for PACE recipients to act as a consumer advocate for those recipients. It also calls for the development of a methodology for PACE financing using the "upper payment limit." **CSL worked with a number of advocacy organizations to amend the bill to strengthen and expand the ombudsman program as a critical advocate for the rights of recipients.**

Bills that Died

HB16-1102 Drug Production Costs Transparency Requirements (Rep. Ginal/Sens. Newell & Roberts). The bill as introduced would have required drug manufacturers to submit a report to the Colorado Commission on Affordable Health Care outlining certain information about drugs made available in Colorado for which the wholesale acquisition cost is \$50,000 or more per year or per course of treatment. **CSL supported the bill because it would have been a good first step in increasing drug pricing transparency for consumers by providing more information to explain how pharmaceutical drug companies determine drug prices.**

HB 1195 Home Modification Services in Medicaid Waivers (Reps. Landgraf & Young/ Sens. Crowder & Steadman). The bill would have expanded access to home modification services for Medicaid clients receiving home- and community-based services (HCBS) under the Elderly, Blind, and Disabled (EBD) Waiver Program, the Persons with Brain Injury (BI) Waiver Program, the Community Mental Health Supports (CMHS) Waiver, and the Waiver for Persons with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI). **CSL supported this bill because it would have expanded access to home modifications related to any disability (current law is only available for persons with physical impairments) that allow an eligible person to remain in the home.**

HB 16-1403 Colorado Secure Savings Plan (Reps. Buckner & Pettersen/Sens. Todd & Donovan). The bill would have created the Colorado Secure Savings Plan to provide a retirement savings plan for private sector Colorado workers whose employers do not provide a retirement plan. Private employers are required to arrange for the automatic enrollment of employees in the plan and funds are contributed through a payroll deduction from employee wages unless an employee opts out of the program. An employer who offers an alternative retirement savings plan is not required to offer participation in the state plan. Accounts with the plan are in the form of a Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA). **CSL supported this bill because it would have provided an important option for retirement savings, increasing retirement security.**

HB16-1461 Tenancies One Month to One Year (Rep. Pabon/Sen. Johnston). The bill would have modified existing statutes concerning landlord-tenant leases. Under current law, for a tenancy of between one and six months, either the tenant or landlord may terminate the tenancy with 7 days notice. The bill extends this notice to 28 days. In addition, for tenancies between one month and one year where there is no written agreement between the landlord and tenant, the bill would have required that a landlord give a tenant 28 days notice of a rent increase. **CSL supported this bill because affordable housing is a critical issue for seniors and the bill is a reasonable approach that protects landlords' assets while giving tenants more time to respond to rent increases.**

HB16-1466 Promoting Affordable Housing (Rep. Tyler & Becker K./Sen. Ulibarri). The bill would have provided a one-time \$40 million transfer from the state's Unclaimed Property Fund and directed it to a variety of affordable housing programs at the state Division of Housing to improve, preserve, or expand the supply of affordable housing, including rental assistance for low income households and the Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to support new or existing programs that provide financial assistance to households with an income of 80 percent or less of the area median income. **CSL supported the bill because it would have provided affordable housing options for thousands of Colorado families, including seniors.**

SB 16-057 Mobile Home Owners Leasing Space Mobile Home Parks (Sen. Kefalas/Reps. Ginal & Tyler) The bill among other things would have created and administered a dispute resolution program that would have provided landlords and manufactured home owners with a cost-effective and time-efficient process to resolve disputes. The bill would have established new duties concerning mobile home owners and landlords for the Colorado Division of Housing, including collecting economic and demographic data; providing educational opportunities for mobile landlords and home owners concerning their rights and responsibilities; and creating a dispute resolution program. **CSL supported this bill because mobile homes represent an important affordable housing option for older adults but the rights of mobile home owners are not adequately protected in existing law.**

Nuts & Bolts of Influencing Legislation

INFLUENCING LEGISLATION BY CONTACTING LEGISLATORS

By David Barclay

A WHO TO TALK TO WHEN YOU CAN'T MEET WITH THEM ALL

- 1 Your friends in the legislature, first.
- 2 Your own legislator, second.
- 3 The committee(s) that is handling the bill, third and fourth.
- 4 The kingpins for your issue, third and fourth.

B MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS

- 1 The most effective way to meet with a legislator (with the most effective listed first).
 - a Meet with legislator at his or her home.
 - b Phone calls to his or her home.
 - c Meet with the legislator at the statehouse.
 - d Phone calls to the statehouse.
- 2 Contacts of little or no value.
 - a Form letters.
 - b Form emails.

C WHEN TO MEET WITH LEGISLATORS

- 1 Don't contact your legislator only when you want action.
 - a Meet with during interim.
 - b For lunch or coffee.
 - c Get acquainted socially, if possible.
- 2 Compliment when appropriate.

D COORDINATING YOUR CONTACT EFFORTS

- 1 Don't duplicate. Know what other members of your legislative advocate network are doing. Coordinate your efforts and divide up what needs to get done.
- 2 Send copies of your legislative correspondence to your coalition's legislative coordinator, and to the secretary. Report all contacts with legislators and what transpired.

E FOLLOWING BILLS WITHOUT BOTHERING LEGISLATORS

Call the Colorado Senior Lobby. Alternatively: Go to coloradoseniorlobby.org. Under the heading "Get Involved" click on BILL SHEET.

RULES FOR CONTACTING LEGISLATORS

- A **BE PRACTICAL:** Find out what can realistically be accomplished.
- B **BE AS BRIEF AND CONCISE AS POSSIBLE IN PRESENTING YOUR CASE.**
- C **LEAVE BEHIND A ONE-PAGE OUTLINE SUMMARY** of your position (also leave one with the administrative assistant).
- D **DO NOT THREATEN** with political or voter retaliation.
- E **FOLLOW UP YOUR VISIT** with a letter to the legislator.

**Join Special Guest
Former Colorado Governor Roy R. Romer
at Colorado Senior Lobby's Summer Social**

**Colorado Senior Lobby's
2016 Summer Social**

When: Saturday, August 20, 2016 – 8:30AM – Noon

**Where: Covenant Village of Colorado – Smith Fellowship Hall
9151 Yarrow St, Westminster, Colorado 80021**

Covenant Village of Colorado is located west of Wadsworth & W 92nd Avenue



**All ages welcome! Bring a friend!
*There is plenty of free parking.***

*8:30 to 9:30AM is socializing
and continental breakfast.
If that is too early for you, plan
on coming when the event
program starts at 9:30AM.*

*Colorado Senior Lobby
gives you quick access to news
about issues impacting Colorado
seniors. Through our Monday
morning legislative sessions, our
newsletters, and our network we
give you a shortcut on who to
contact so your Colorado
Legislators can hear your voice.*

*We are LIVE STREAMING this
event – learn more online.*

Our event program is scheduled as follows:

- ◆ **8:30AM to 9:30AM - Socializing & Continental Breakfast**
- ◆ **9:30AM to 11:00AM - Panel & Interactive Discussion** with **Colorado Legislators** will offer what they have done to help the aging population and the challenges they see ahead. Interactive discussion will occur to provide feedback from the attendees on what they see as challenges and need help with.
- ◆ **11:00AM to 11:30AM - CSL Serving our Seniors Award Winners**
We will be honoring 6 legislators: Senators Kefalas & Martinez Humenik and Representatives Coram, Danielson, Ginal and Landgraf. We will also present a lifetime achievement award to Senator Pat Steadman.
- ◆ **11:30AM to Noon - Review of the Colorado Senior Lobby's Senior Survey, audience Q&A and discussion of senior issues.**
Note that the Colorado Senior Lobby business meeting will be from Noon to 12:30PM – everyone is welcome to stay!



**Get connected with Colorado Senior Lobby
◆ Attend the Summer Social ◆ Join Today ◆
www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org**

**Thank you Covenant Village of Colorado for hosting our
2016 Summer Social! www.CovenantColorado.org**

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*The ultimate folly is to think that
something crucial to your welfare is being taken
care of for you.*
—Robert Brault, American operatic tenor

“Healthy citizens are the
greatest asset any
country can have.”
— Winston Churchill

Go Green:

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or coworker.

Colorado Senior Lobby — Nonprofit, non-partisan, volunteer organization

MEMBERSHIP: Single \$30 Family \$40 Organization \$75 \$ _____

Organizations: Attach three names and contact information

Additional contribution to support our vision for seniors' quality of life \$ _____

Total (This payment is not tax deductible) \$ _____

Name/Business/Organization: _____

Address: Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: Home _____ Business _____

Cell: _____ Email Address: _____

Circle one: **BILL ME** or **CHECK ENCLOSED** — payable Colorado Senior Lobby

P. O. Box 102662, Denver, CO 80250-2662 DATE: _____

Newsletter by **EMAIL** or **SNAIL MAIL**

Join or renew your membership online at coloradoseniorlobby.org