



## MOVING PUBLIC POLICY *FORWARD*

### **2017 COLORADO STATE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**

In health care, good policymaking affects the areas of coverage, care, costs, system transparency, and overall health. Each component is inextricably linked and is critical to supporting a high-functioning health care system.

In our work at the state Capitol, we prioritize legislative issues that impact health equity. This includes improving access to health care coverage and services, improving population health and patient experiences, lowering per capita costs, and minimizing preventable differences in health driven by social and institutional factors.

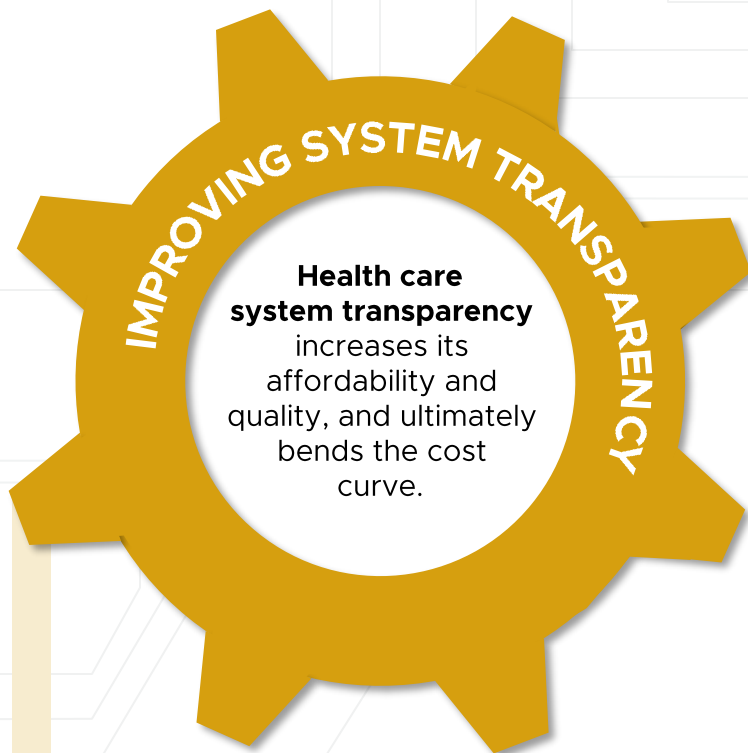
For the 2017 session, the priority areas in which we actively engaged and led on include:

- Promoting immigrant health by meaningfully reducing gaps in coverage and access to care for all immigrants
- Supporting people-centered payment reforms that enables providers to holistically care for patients and partner with patients to shape the transformation
- Furthering stronger integration of social determinants of health into care settings

This session, we achieved some of our goals, but also faced some frustrating setbacks. However, we remain committed to working to create opportunities and eliminate barriers to health equity for all Coloradans. Because when our neighbors are healthy, our communities prosper, and Colorado is stronger.

# MOVEMENT IN THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

This session, a number of bills passed that will benefit Coloradans, and a number failed that could have caused harm. Colorado made progress toward improving coverage, access to care, transparency, and addressing key social determinants of health. The bills highlighted here are a sample of those we engaged in and not a full list of all bills we followed this year.



**HB 1094**      **SUPPORT**      **PASSED**

Ensures health plans cannot deny tele-health coverage based on technology, and that plans must contract with an in-person provider to ensure network adequacy.

**Health Equity Impact:** ZIP code should not be a barrier to accessing health care.

**HB 1237**      **SUPPORT**      **FAILED**

Gives local government employees the option to participate in state health plans.

**Health Equity Impact:** Affordable insurance should be available to all.

**SB 3**      **OPPOSE**      **FAILED**

Would have eliminated Connect for Health Colorado, our insurance marketplace.

**Health Equity Impact:** Affordable insurance should be available to all.

**HB 1353**      **SUPPORT**      **PASSED**

Codifies the Accountable Care Collaborative, an integrated care and value-based payment model, into state law.

**Health Equity Impact:** Health care should address medical needs and social factors.

**SB 65**      **SUPPORT**      **PASSED**


Requires health care providers to make charges for top procedures public.

**Health Equity Impact:** Coloradans need care prices to make smart care decisions.

**SB 121**      **SUPPORT**      **PASSED**

Requires Medicaid to test notices for clarity and accuracy with patients and partners.

**Health Equity Impact:** Coverage benefits should be easy to understand and use.



**Factors that affect a person's ability to access care and live a healthy life**

include income, education, access to transportation, housing, and more.

ADDRESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

**HB 1206**      **SUPPORT**      **FAILED**

Would have increased access to driver's licenses for immigrants without documents.

**Health Equity Impact:** Coloradans, regardless of citizenship status, should have transportation to access care.

**HB 1307**      **SUPPORT**      **FAILED**

Guarantees all workers up to 12 weeks of paid leave for illnesses or family caretaking.

**Health Equity Impact:** Paid family leave is associated with positive health outcomes for working families.

**SB 11**      **SUPPORT**      **PASSED**

Creates a study on transportation options for people with disabilities.

**Health Equity Impact:** Coloradans with disabilities benefit from transportation to live productive lives.

**SB 68**      **SUPPORT**      **PASSED**

Expands eligibility for elementary schools to receive behavioral health workforce grants.

**Health Equity Impact:** Students of color are punished disproportionately in schools instead of getting the behavioral health care they need.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Coverage does not ensure Coloradans can access the **quality, affordable, timely** health care they need, when they need it.

**HB 1115**      **SUPPORT**      **PASSED**

Ensures Direct Primary Care, an innovative care model, isn't regulated as insurance.

**Health Equity Impact:** Services should be provided in a convenient way for patients.

**SB 91**      **SUPPORT**      **PASSED**

Allows Medicaid home health services to be provided in communities, not just homes.

**Health Equity Impact:** Services should be provided in a way that promotes person- and community-centered living

**SB 207**      **SUPPORT**      **PASSED**

Will improve the crisis system for those experiencing behavioral health crises.

**Health Equity Impact:** Emergency rooms and jails are not adequate behavioral health care settings.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE SESSION

Several beneficial bills passed in the 2017 legislative session that impacted the priority areas of Center for Health Progress. Additionally, a number of potentially harmful bills failed; these would have reduced access to care and coverage for Coloradans. Although a few bills we hoped would pass to improve health equity for Coloradans did not pass, we look forward to continued work on those issues in future sessions.

Recognizing the clear links between the many different components of the systems affecting health allows us to more effectively improve the entire system for Coloradans who rely on it.

We must continue to make improvements to coverage, care, and transparency, and to address the social determinants of health. All these play an important role in making our health care system work for all Coloradans. Now, we will focus on implementation of these new laws to ensure our neighbors and communities reap the benefits. And, we will pursue additional policy change as we continue identifying barriers to health equity for Coloradans. Our work is far from complete, but we are proud of the advances made this legislative session.

To learn more about our work at the Capitol, visit [centerforhealthprogress.org/policy](http://centerforhealthprogress.org/policy).

### ***We believe the health care system should work for all Coloradans.***

*So, we bring people together, to ensure factors like race, income, and ZIP code don't determine a person's access to care and opportunity to live a healthy life. When we uncover commonsense solutions to these complex challenges, we get closer to ensuring our health care system works for everyone. Because when our neighbors are healthy, our communities prosper, and Colorado is stronger.*

