



Women's Lobby of Colorado's Annual Scorecard 2021

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The Women's Lobby of Colorado seeks to provide better opportunities for women in our state since 1993 by ensuring that public policies reflect gender equity and justice. By maintaining a daily lobbying presence at Colorado's state capitol, our all-volunteer organization has kept the needs of women front and center in our state's public policy debates for more than a decade. Our organizational and individual memberships ensure our voice continues to be heard year after year at the Colorado Capitol. We thank you for supporting us.

Special thanks to our lobbyist Eliza Schultz for her work and our volunteer board for their leadership.

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Introduction



Public policy is the people’s work, and the people both **deserve** a voice in policy-making discussions and **make those discussions better by their very participation**.

As a policy advocacy organization with both grassroots and grass-tops relationships, the Women’s Lobby of Colorado hopes to be a bridge that brings community to the State Capitol. Not only is there a moral argument to be made that the people most affected by policy decisions should be centered in the process, but it is also true that we, as on-the-ground community members, are policy experts in our own right. We are the ones who see how policies play out in our lives, families, neighborhoods, and workplaces, and we are best positioned to provide those insights to policymakers. In fact, the policy process itself depends on us if its aims are truly to advance equity and justice.

In some ways, the 2021 Colorado Legislative Session was an opportunity for us to better enact the lessons that COVID taught us in 2020 -- we were all better prepared to advocate through virtual lobby days, digital organizing, and remote testimony. We saw how online activism opportunities allowed more people to participate in and improve democracy. We were also able to address additional concerns that COVID brought to light, namely how gaps in our services were widened for communities who have been historically excluded from policymaking. This is why we focused our energy on trying to close those gaps and advancing health and justice outcomes for families across Colorado.

Our diaper bank partners reported seeing double to triple the need because of COVID-19. Finally, the Colorado legislature has responded to this need by passing SB27, leading the nation.



Our Priorities

Each year, the Women’s Lobby chooses one piece of legislation to prioritize and invest our lobbying resources toward. We make this decision based on how it aligns with our mission, how it prioritizes marginalized communities—particularly women of color and low-income women—and where we are asked to help.

This year, we chose a bill highlighting the impacts on women and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill, SB21-027 Emergency Supplies for Babies and Families. The bill created a first-of-its-kind state diaper grant program with \$4 million in funding for the next two years. The need for this bill has always existed as pre-COVID-19 one in three children in diapers, over 65,000 in Colorado, were struggling to cover the costs of their diapers. For families, this stress means babies’ health is at risk for urinary tract and other issues, and parents are facing mental anguish. Since the pandemic, our diaper bank partners have reported an increased need of up to three times the pre-pandemic levels. Furthermore, to help women and their families, the legislature added another \$5 million in grants for Colorado food pantries to buy and provide healthy food to their community, another high need in these tough times. We are excited that this bill passed through the legislature, although it became partisan when it should not have. Our scores in this report illustrate that problem. But the bill and the diaper program it created will help families for years to come.

The Scorecard

The primary purpose of the WLCO annual scorecard is to track how each Colorado State Legislator voted on crucial gender equity issues. Not only is this sort of transparency necessary for a fair and democratic government, but it can be used as an accountability tool by constituents and activists.

We encourage you to communicate with your legislators about their votes—thank them if they scored well and ask them to do better if they did not. It is central to the WLCO mission that we serve as a bridge between community members and the State Capitol— that building is as much our building as our own homes. Public policy is the people’s work, and it should reflect our priorities and needs. If the people’s work is out of alignment with the people themselves, it is up to us to let our representatives know how we feel. We hope that this scorecard aids in that task. Please click on the link attached to the bill number to learn more about each bill.

Other Legislative Highlights

The Women's Lobby of Colorado's approach to public policy has historically been multi-issue and responsive, meaning we take positions on a wide range of bills and consider where our resources could best lift communities most impacted. This year was no different in that respect. Our policy advocacy helped advance work in racial equity, youth, housing, reproductive rights, environment, workers' rights, public health, and LGBTQIA+ rights.

The Bills in this Scorecard

Families' Basic Needs

SB21-027: B21-027 Emergency Supplies for Babies and Families (PASSED)

The bill created a first-of-its-kind state diaper grant program with \$4 million in funding for the next two years. It also included \$5 million for the Food Pantry Assistance program, a grant program for food pantries to purchase healthy food for their clients. Both of these programs serve families struggling to cover their basic needs, including because of the detrimental economic impacts of COVID-19. We are very proud to have helped families this year and into the future.

LGBTQIA Rights:

HB21- 1108: Gender Identity Expression Anti-discrimination (PASSED)

This bill made the long-needed change to our anti-discrimination laws. The Gender Identity Expression Anti-Discrimination Act (the Act) updates Colorado's nondiscrimination provisions applicable to individuals seeking protection on the basis of "sexual orientation," including by adding the terms "gender expression" and "gender identity" to 48 areas of state law (e.g., employment, housing, public accommodation) that prohibit discrimination against members of a protected class. Trans Coloradans have long needed these specific protections.

Reproductive Rights

SB21-009: Reproductive Health Care Program (PASSED)

Bill legislation addresses obstacles to care that womxn of color and low-income people need to manage their health and live with dignity. This law will provide contraceptive coverage for undocumented people through the state Medicaid program and enable people who use Medicaid to get a one-year supply of oral contraceptives.



Scorecard

Reproductive Rights Continued

A Transformational Birth Justice Package-- SB101, SB193, SB 194 (PASSED)

In response to the maternal mortality crisis, inequities in outcomes due to racism, and community outcry in general, these bills address multiple levers in Colorado's perinatal care system to begin to bring about improvements in care. The package includes perinatal care for pregnant individuals who are incarcerated, improved health data systems to better evaluate issues impacting communities of color, and continuing and improved access to access to midwifery care. Our scorecard scores SB21-194.

Fair Tax Reforms (PASSED)

HB21-1311 and 1312: These bills we supported expand the state's Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, reforms that benefit lower-income Coloradans. This was passed thanks to hard work by legislators and our partners, the Colorado Fiscal Institute and Colorado Center on Law and Policy. These increased tax credits for Coloradans with limited incomes will help Coloradans and their economic security for years to come. It is anticipated these fair tax reforms will provide families \$200 million in tax savings to cover their other needs, including child care, housing, and basic needs. In our Scorecard, we score SB21-1311.

Environment

HB21-1266:Environmental Justice Disproportionate Impacted Community (PASSED)

This was introduced as a bill to create a task force on environmental justice issues that would investigate and craft responses to the effects of environmental injustice on BIPOC and low-income communities. However, it was merged with an important bill, SB200. SB200 will create deadlines and guidelines for greenhouse gas emissions reduction. After Governor Polis threatened to veto SB200 with advocates, a broad coalition of grassroots groups mobilized to push back against the veto threat, generating thousands of calls and e-mails to legislators and the Governor and testifying at the legislature to the importance of the bill. Ultimately, this organizing resulted in a compromise that placed much of the language from SB200 into HB1266. Our scoring of HB21-1266 reflects the final merged bills.

Civil Rights

SB21-087 - Agricultural Workers' Rights (PASSED)

This historical legislation passed the Colorado legislature that expands workplace protections to the Colorado agricultural workers that sustain our food system. This bill will help Colorado's agricultural sector workers who have faced discrimination, low wages, harassment, and wage theft for too long because they have been carved out of state legal protections. For women agricultural workers, these protections are vital, as they are often providing the vital resources their families depend on, provide the care their families need, and face sexual harassment in the agricultural sector.

Scorecard

Civil Rights Continued

SB21-199: Remove Barriers to Certain Public Opportunities (PASSED)

This bill removes discriminatory language in our state laws that prevented immigrants from becoming licensed to provide services and earn an income, as well as language that prohibited access to many state benefits. This bill is vital to helping immigrants in Colorado work legally and therefore thrive in our state.

HB21-1110 - Colorado Laws For Persons With Disabilities (PASSED)

This bill strengthens state discrimination laws for individuals with disabilities. The bill adds three discrimination violations and provides additional responsibility for the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to improve the accessibility of state agency web content. This bill is vital to ensure people with disabilities in Colorado can access information and public benefits the state provides.

Housing/Tenant Rights:

SB21-173: Rights In Residential Lease Agreements (PASSED)

Housing costs are one of Colorado's biggest issues. Low-income women who rent have long faced unfair policies, often putting their housing stability at risk. Passage of SB173 is vital to the renter's rights. It establishes a week-long grace period before late fees and caps late fees. It gives families struggling to cover the high costs of living more time, and in turn, more housing stability.

SB-176: Protecting Opportunities And Workers' Rights Act (POWR Act) (Postponed Indefinitely)

This bill sought to improve the legal standards for discrimination in the workplace, especially for women. The bill would have eliminated the excessive "severe or pervasive" hostile work environment requirements and replaces it with one that instead considers an employee's sense of well-being and safety. After a long fight for the legislation, it was killed in the House Judiciary Committee with a vote to postpone indefinitely. Since the bill was not voted on for the third reading, it is not scored, but the votes to postpone indefinitely are listed below.

Yeas to postpone indefinitely: Bacon, Benavidez, Bockenfeld, Carver, Daugherty, Lynch, McKean, Roberts, Tipper

Nays: Woodrow, Weissman

Survivor Rights

HB21-1255: Protection Order Issued Against Domestic Abuser (PASSED)

This important bill will now require individuals whom the Courts have served with a protection order to report and relinquish firearms. The bill will protect people in domestic violence situations.

Scorecard

Survivor Rights Continued

SB21-073: Civil Action Statute Of Limitations Sexual Assault (PASSED)

After many years of working towards this goal, the legislature finally passed SB21-073, which ends the statute of limitations on reporting sexual assault. For children who face this trauma, it may be years later that they remember what happened to them, and for too long, the time limits on bringing cases forward left them without justice. This bill remedies this and stops any future protection of perpetrators of sexual assault.

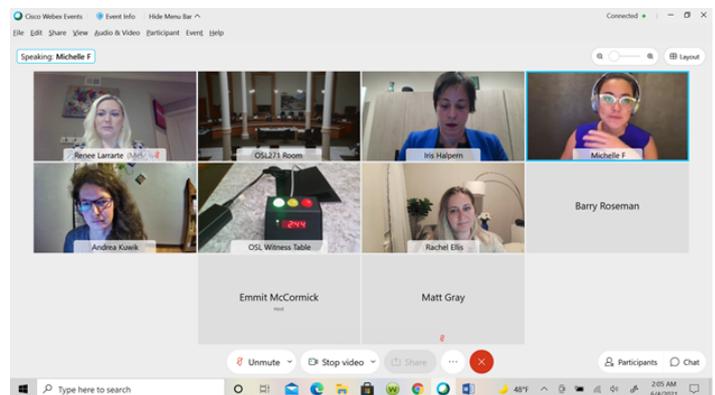
Criminal Justice Reform

SB21-273: Pre-trial Reform (KILLED)

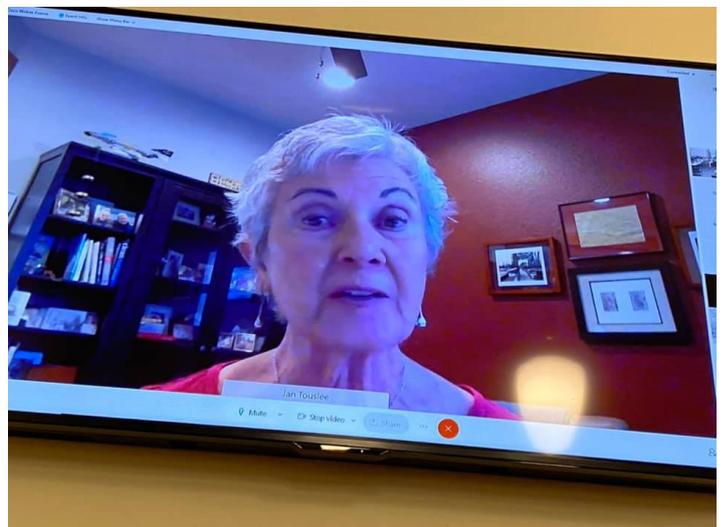
The bill would have prohibited a peace officer from arresting a person based solely on the alleged commission of a traffic offense, petty offense, drug petty offense, municipal offense, drug misdemeanor offense, or misdemeanor offense unless they met other criteria based on criminal history. This would have helped people facing unfair bonds and resulted in a more equitable justice system. Sadly, this legislation died in committee. Since it did not pass the committee, we cannot score it as we score third readings. Here are the votes from the House Finance Committee where it was postponed indefinitely, killing it.

Yeas: Bradfield, Gray, Pelton, Rich, Sandridge, Snyder, Bird

Nays: Benavidez, Daugherty, Kipp



Testifying remotely was made possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has opened up access for more voices to be heard at the Capitol. We hope it continues.



Scorecard - Votes - Senate

		HB1266 (SB200)	HB1311	SB101	SB193	SB194	SB27	SB9	SB87	SB199	SB110	HB1255	SB73	Score
Jerry Sonnenberg	SD1	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20
Dennis Hisey	SD2	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20
Leroy Garcia	SD3	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Jim Smallwood	SD4	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20
Kerry Donovan	SD5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Don Coram	SD6	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	33
Ray Scott	SD7	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20
Bob Rankin	SD8	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20
Paul Lundeen	SD9	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20
Larry Liston	SD10	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20
Pete Lee	SD11	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Bob Gardner	SD12	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20
John Cooke	SD13	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20
Joann Ginal	SD14	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Rob Woodward	SD15	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20
Tammy Story	SD16	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Sonya Jaquez Lewis	SD17	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Stephen Fenberg	SD18	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Rachel Zenzinger	SD19	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Jessie Danielson	SD20	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Dominick Moreno	SD21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Brittany Pettersen	SD22	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Barbara Kirkmeyer	SD23	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	27
Faith Winter	SD24	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Kevin Priola	SD25	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	47
Jeff Bridges	SD26	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Chris Kolker	SD27	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100

Janet Buckner	SD28	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Rhonda Fields	SD29	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Chris Holbert	SD30	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20
Chris Hansen	SD31	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Robert Rodriguez	SD32	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
James Coleman	SD33	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Julie Gonzales	SD34	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Cleave Simpson	SD35	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	27

Scorecard - Votes - House of Representatives

		HB1266 (SB200)	HB1311	SB101	SB193	SB194	SB27	SB9	SB87	SB199	SB110	HB1255	SB73	Score
Susan Lontine	HD1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Alec Garnett	HD2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Meg Froelich	HD3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Serena Gonzalez-Gutierrez	HD4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Alex Valdez	HD5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Steven Woodrow	HD6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	100
Jennifer Bacon	HD7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Leslie Herod	HD8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Emily Sirota	HD9	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Edie Hooton	HD10	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Karen McCormick	HD11	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Tracey Bennett	HD12	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Judy Amabile	HD13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Shane Sandridge	HD14	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	14
Dave Williams	HD15	N	N	Y	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	8
Andres Pico	HD16	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	31
Tony Exum	HD17	E	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	100
Marc Snyder	HD18	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	92
Tim Geitner	HD19	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	23
Terri Carver	HD20	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	21
Mary Bradfield	HD21	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	21
Colin Larson	HD22	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	23
Chris Kennedy	HD23	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Monica Duran	HD24	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Lisa Cutter	HD25	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Dylan Roberts	HD26	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	92
Brianna Titone	HD27	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100

Scorecard - Votes - House of Representatives

Kerry Tipper	HD28	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	92
Lindsay Daugherty	HD29	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Dafna Michaelson Jenet	HD30	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Yadira Caraveo	HD31	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Adrienne Benavidez	HD32	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	93
Matt Gray	HD33	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	92
Kyle Mullica	HD34	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Shannon Bird	HD35	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	92
Mike Weissman	HD36	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Tom Sullivan	HD37	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
David Ortiz	HD38	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Mark Baisley	HD39	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	15
Naquetta Ricks	HD40	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Iman Jodeh	HD41	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Dominique Jackson	HD42	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Kevin Van Winkle	HD43	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	15
Kim Ransom	HD44	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	8
Patrick Neville	HD45	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	8
Daneya Esgar	HD46	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Stephanie Luck	HD47	N	N	Y	N	E	E	N	E	E	Y	N	N	33
Tonya Van Beber	HD48	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	23
Mike Lynch	HD49	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	21
Mary Young	HD50	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Hugh McKean	HD51	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	21
Cathy Kipp	HD52	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Andrew Boesenecker	HD53	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Matt Soper	HD54	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	E	25
Janice Rich	HD55	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	21

Scorecard - Votes - House of Representatives

Rod Bockenfeld	HD56	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	14
Perry Will	HD57	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	23
Marc Catlin	HD58	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	23
Barbara McLachlan	HD59	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Ron Hanks	HD60	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	15
Julie McCluskie	HD61	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Donald Valdez	HD62	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	92
Dan Woog	HD63	N	N	Y	N	N	N	E	N	N	N	E	N	18
Richard Holtorf	HD64	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	23
Rod Pelton	HD65	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	21

Key

Y: Yes Vote N: No Vote E: Excused
V: Vacant

Thank you!

We want to thank the many organizations that helped and supported the passage of SB21-027, including WeeCycle and the Nappie Project who were amazing partners with the expertise to move this bill forward. We also want to thank Senator Brittany Pettersen for making this a priority. We look forward to seeing the impacts this bill and investment in families.

Concluding thoughts

As a policy advocacy organization, our busy season is legislative session, but our work is truly year-round. We have developed trainings on how to advocate at the State Capitol, we build relationships with other progressive organizations and join coalitions, and we strategize on how to create the most impact for Coloradans. As an all-volunteer-run organization, we are nimble, thrifty, and effective. Ultimately, we know that collective action is how to build public support to get community problems on the policy agenda—and then how to get legislators to act. We are committed to responding when we are asked for help and putting our resources behind legislation that brings the margins to the center.