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STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING WOMEN

LAW:

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Rated**
SB24	Chlouber	Concealed Handgun Permits	-d,v,l,n,w,j,k
SB 25	Dyer	Firearm Regs Statewide Concern	-d,v,l,n,w,k
SB 37	Nichol	Child Care Assistance Maintenance Of Effort	
SB 38	Windels	Next of Kin	+v,b
SB 79	Reeves	Child Support	
SB 176	Owen	Medicaid Eligibility Legal Immigrants	-l,l,9,h,j,k
SB 246	Owen	Admin Fee for Public Program Recipients	-a,9,l,v
SB 271	Owen	Augment General Fund thru Cash Transfer	-v,l (until amended)
SB 291	Owen	Change Child Basic Health Plan	-9,l
HB 1028	Rose	Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention	+d
HB 1036	Groff	Lottery Winning Restitution	+v,b
HB 1038	Stafford	Colo Works Domestic Violence Extension	+v,a,d,l,9,w,n,b,j
HB 1117	Veiga	Protective Orders	+v,d,k
HB 1130	Witwer	Family Resource Centers Tax Checkoff	+d,l,k,9
HB 1138	Hefley	Crimes Against Women Affecting Unborn Child	
HB 1164	Spradley	Expanding Access to Health Insurance	-k,h,w
HB 1173	Coleman	Funding for Colo Family Literacy Act	
HB 1246	Lundberg	ColoWorks Eligibility	
HB 1376	Harvey	Parental Notification Judicial Bypass	-d,p,r,l,w

KILLED:

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Committee	Rated**
SB8	Hanna	Work-Related Outcomes under Colorado Works	sSA	+a,d,9,v,l,w,n,k
SB 28	Linkhart	Sex Orientation & Gender Variance Discrimination	sJUD	+d,l,9,n,w,b,k
SB 63	Lamborn	Carrying Concealed Weapon	sAPP	-v,l,n,w,k
SB 111	Tate	Ethnic Intimidation Bias-Motivated Crimes	sSA	+b,l,9,w,k
SB 154	Hillman	Local Restriction of Housing Prices	sfloor	-l,k,9,w
SB 245	Groff	Divorce Debt Protect Innocent Spouse		+d
SB 293	Reeves	Recover Child Support Debt	sHEWI	-l,d,9,i
HB1022	Schultheis	Protect Women by Abortion Clinic License	hAPP	-d,r,p,l,n,w,b,j,k
HB 1043	Plant	Economic Self Sufficiency Guidelines	hAPP	+w,9,b,l,k
HB 1039	Cadman	Summary Eviction Residential Property	hSA	-9,l,k
HB 1080	Romanoff	Substance Abuse Treatment TANF	hHEWI	+t,d,v,l,9,h,n,w,c
HB 1141	Plant	Colo Civil Union	hIT	+d,l,9,n,w,k
HB 1152	Boyd	ColoWorks Ed for Self-Sufficiency	hHEWI	+a,9,l,d,n,w,v,k
HB 1214	Harvey	Abortion Parental Notification Act	s2nd	-p,l,d,w,j
HB 1235	Madden	Adoption by Domestic Partner	hSA	+b,d,l,9,k,w
HB 1252	Boyd	Emergency Contraception After Assault	sSA	+p,r,b,l,d,j,k,9

*HEWI=Health, Environment, Welfare & Institutions; JUD=Judiciary; ; SA=State, Veterans & Military Affairs; APP -Appropriations ; IT=Information & Technology; h=House s=Senate

**+=support, -=oppose a=AFDC Coalition b=Business & Professional Women c=Colo Social Legislation Committee; d=Denver Women's Commission; h=Colo Consumer Health Initiative; i=Invest in Families; j=National Council of Jewish Women ; k= Colo Women's Agenda; l=Women's Lobby; n=NOW; p=Planned Parenthood; r=NARAL; t=Colo Substance Abuse Task Force; v=Colo Coalition Against Domestic Violence; w= League of Women Voters; 9= 9to5 Ntl Assn Working Women

If your women's organization has taken a position on any of these bills, add its name to this list by contacting Chaer Robert at 720-913-8465 or fax 720-913-8470 or email robertc@ci.denver.co.us. To identify your representative and senator, call your County Clerk's office or online at www.vote-smart.org. Denver residents call 720-913-8656. Updates of this are available online at www.denvergov.org/women For more information about the status of any bill call the Bill Room at 303-866-3055 or online at www.state.co.us/gov_dir/stateleg.html

The overriding concern this legislative session is the budget shortfall, which currently stands at \$970 million for 2002-2003. Colorado general funds revenues (taxes) fell by 15% in FY 2001-2002. For the coming year 2003-2004, about \$900 million needs to be cut. K-12 Education spending-- 40% of the state budget -- is now largely mandated by voter- approved Amendment 23. Medicaid spending-- at 20% of the budget-- is largely mandated by federal law. The bad economy, with income and stock market investments falling, particularly since September 11th. and permanent cuts in the tax rates are largely to blame for falling revenues. TABOR prevented keeping a rainy day fund, and restricts future growth to inflation plus population growth based on the new much lower base.

Budget -- Some of the budget cuts that specifically impact women include: SB 246 charge welfare recipients \$1. per month to receive their benefits. SB 271 would have transferred about \$5 million dollars of fines paid into VALE (Victim Assistance & Law Enforcement) which were used to fund programs serving victims of sexual assault and domestic violence into the general fund for general government operating expenses after amendment- offender fines will be increased to generate the \$5 million without decreasing victim service funding. SB 291 freezes all new enrollment in the prenatal care program of the Child Health Plan- approved last year. SB 293 would have authorized counties to collect and intercept back child support and reimburse themselves for payment of child care subsidies.

Welfare-- SB 246 charges welfare recipients \$1. per month to issue their welfare benefits. SB 8 would have required counties to set targets in term of job placement, job retention and salaries-- areas which the state's own evaluation have shown we fail pretty miserably, with only 20% of recipients earning above the poverty level after leaving welfare. HB 1152 would have created a pilot program under which some TANF recipients could complete higher education. HB 1038 is a technical clean-up allowing domestic violence extensions to not count against our 20% cap on caseload excluded from the 60-month time limit. HB 1080 would have required Colorado to get a waiver to begin providing substance abuse treatment to Colorado Works (TANF) recipients. Colorado is one of three states with no substance abuse treatment offered under Medicaid.

Guns -- SB 63- would required the issuance of concealed carry permits to basically any Coloradoan over 21 who wants one, unless they are specifically banned from owning a gun. SB 25 would preempt local governments from passing gun laws and overturn those that they have already passed. SB 24 would require sheriffs to issue concealed carry permits to individuals who can legally purchase handguns. The bill requires demonstrated training or expertise, except for emergency permits. It outlines certain categories of individuals who would not be eligible to get a concealing weapon. It allows a sheriff to deny a permit if an individual's past behavior demonstrates a threat to self or others. The individual can appeal the denial.

Health -- Cuts in Medicaid are the biggest issue. SB 176 removes all LEGAL immigrants from Medicaid. Additional bills include HB 1013 which would have allowed rate banding in the small group insurance market, i.e. insurers could charge more for people with people it considers high risk. HB 1075 would have repealed many requirements for coverage, and make them optional for a 5% surcharge, e.g. mammography, prostate screening, diabetes supplies, etc. HB 162 eliminate certain mandated coverage and allows rating based on health status to regain those coverages. HB 1164 allows basic small group health insurance to be sold which does not cover mammograms, mental illness or alcoholism, allows premium pricing to be based on health. and allows the formation of MEWA- Multi Employer Welfare Associations.

Reproduction Health -- HB 1022 would have driven up the cost of abortions by adding 20 pages of regulations to clinics that provide abortions. HB 1214 tried to resurrect an initiated statute requiring parental notification of abortions declared unconstitutional by adding a limited exception for a young woman's health. It does not address the lack of a judicial bypass mechanism. HB 1376 is similar to HB 1214, but does add a judicial bypass in an effort to reach constitutionality It still has a very narrow exception for health of the minor. HB 1252 would have recommended hospitals inform sexual assault victims of the availability of emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy.

Sexual Orientation -- SB 28 would have added sexual orientation and gender variance to civil rights protection for employment. HB 1141 would have created a Civil Union, granting such partner rights and responsibilities equal to marriage. HB 1235 would have allowed adoption by a same sex domestic partner. SB 111 would have added sexual orientation, gender variance, age and disability to current ethnic intimidation laws. All of these bills have been killed.

For corrections, updates, or more information on this summary, contact Chaer Robert 720-913-8465 or chaer.robert@ci.denver.co.us