

# Legislative Recap



## 2021 Legislative Session Overview

The Colorado General Assembly considered **627** pieces of legislation in 2021, and passed **81%**.

CHA tracked **99 bills** **72** passed and **27** failed

- 29 improving health equity and access to care
- 23 impacting hospitals as community assets (e.g., employers, service providers, large businesses)
- 16 regarding behavioral health
- 12 responding to COVID-19
- 10 continuing state regulation of health care
- 9 on health care affordability

CHA testified in more than **10** committee hearings

CHA worked as collaborative partner to improve legislation:

- Secured at least **15** substantive and favorable amendments on **10** bills
- Partnered with legislators, the Polis administration, insurers, physicians, consumer advocates, the business community, and others to achieve key objectives

### CHA's **2021 Legislative Priorities**

- Respond to the ongoing ramifications resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and use lessons learned to facilitate improvements in Colorado's health care system
- Protect against policies that will have detrimental impacts on Colorado's health care system
- Work to support policies that provide critical resources to health care providers and improve clinical outcomes for Coloradans



## Protecting Against Detrimental Policies

- Worked with Joint Budget Committee to **reject** recommended **\$80 million in cuts** to the Hospital Provider Fee
- **Negotiated substantial changes** to the proposed **public option**
- **Amended legislation** addressing **hospital billing requirements** for uninsured indigent patients



## Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Supported creation of the Health Care Services Reserve Corps Task Force

Supported new funding for Colorado's public health system

Successfully defeated legislation that would have required hospitals to allow visitors, even if dangerous for patients and staff

## Supporting Policies that Provide Resources and Improve Clinical Outcomes



**Secured an increase to Medicaid provider rates** (1% to restore cuts from 2020 and an increase of 1.5% for 2021-22)

**Amended and supported legislation** to **improve equity** in pregnancy and childbirth outcomes

**Supported legislation establishing reimbursement** for health care services delivered by pharmacists and peer support professionals