

# Making Your Voice Heard: Engaging in State Advocacy

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CHA VICE PRESIDENT OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
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## Who is CHA?



Lead

### Mission

Support members' collaborative commitment to advance the health of their communities through affordable, accessible, high-quality health care.



Protect

### Vision

Members succeeding in achieving optimal health care value in their communities.



Educate

### Diversity

CHA is committed to achieving equitable health outcomes by eliminating bias and barriers. CHA values different backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints. By promoting diversity among employees and member hospitals, the Association furthers its mission of advancing the health of Colorado communities.



Inform

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## This Morning's Discussion

- Hospitals and the advocacy environment
- Looking back at the 2021 legislative session
- Why your voice is important to the debate
- Making your voice heard at the state level

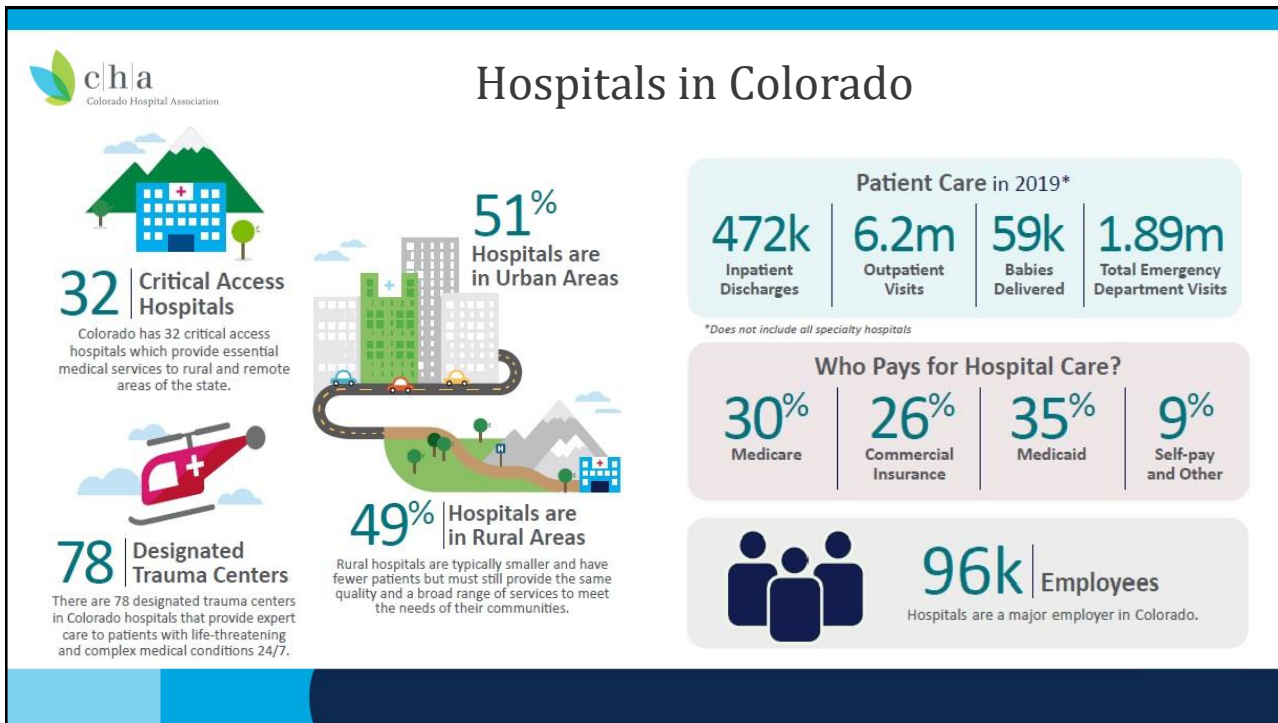


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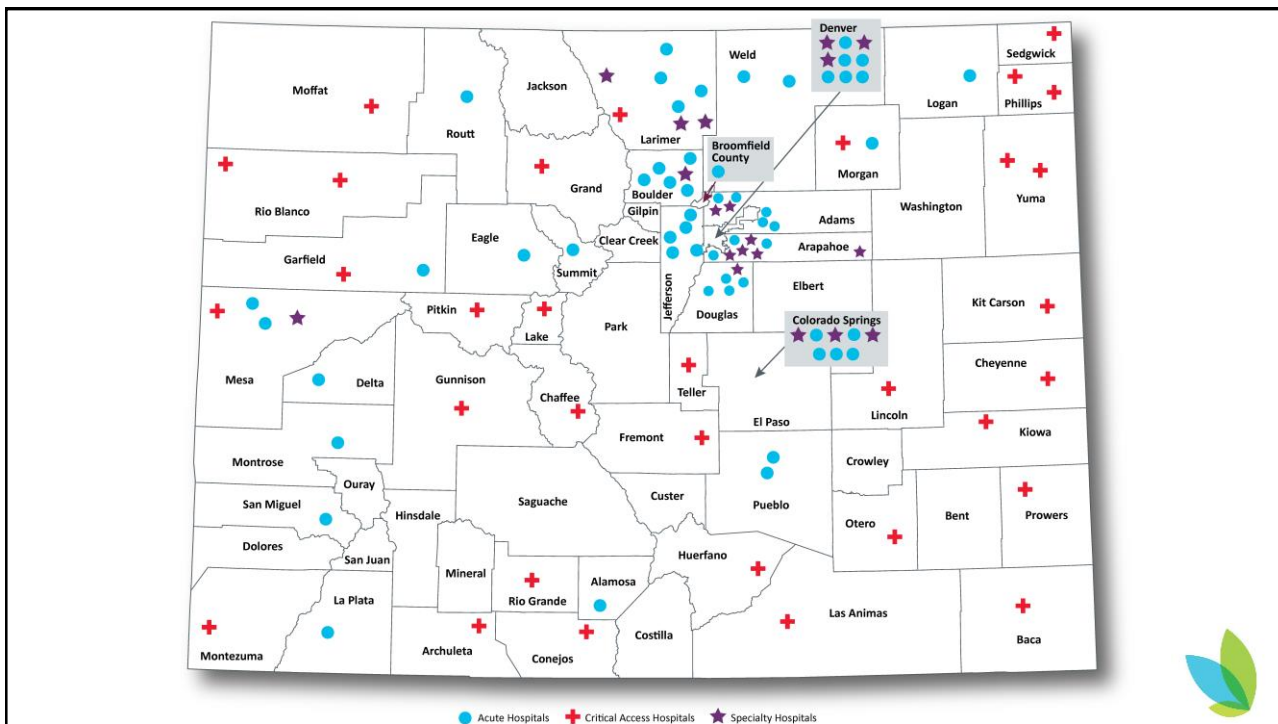
# Hospitals and the Advocacy Environment



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# From D.C. to Denver



## Federal Advocacy

Congress

Regulatory Agencies

## State Advocacy

General Assembly

Regulatory Agencies



# Colorado's Federal Delegation



**Michael Bennet**  
(D) U.S. Senate



**John Hickenlooper**  
(D) U.S. Senate



Diana DeGette  
(D) Denver, CD-1



Joe Neguse  
(D) Broomfield, CD-2



Lauren Boebert  
(R) Rifle, CD-3



Ken Buck  
(R) Windsor, CD-4



Doug Lamborn  
(R) Colorado Springs, CD-5



Jason Crow  
(D) Aurora, CD-6



Ed Perlmutter  
(D) Arvada, CD-7



## Colorado's Statewide Offices



**Jared Polis**  
(D) Boulder  
Governor



**Phil Weiser**  
(D) Denver  
Attorney General



**Dianne Primavera**  
(D) Broomfield  
Lt. Governor




**Jena Griswold**  
(D) Louisville  
Secretary of State



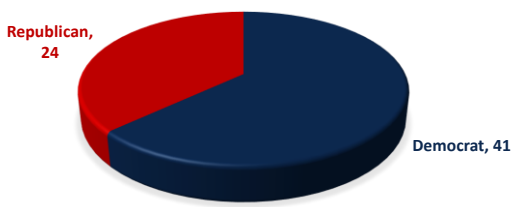
**Dave Young**  
(D) Greeley  
Treasurer

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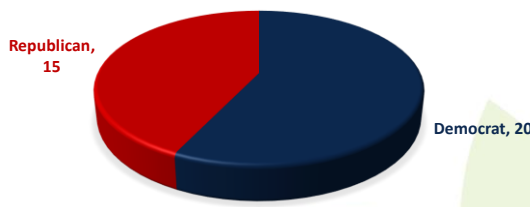
## Colorado's General Assembly

### HOUSE




Republican, 24  
Democrat, 41


### SENATE




Republican, 15  
Democrat, 20




**Speaker Alec Garnett**  
(D) Denver



**President Leroy Garcia**  
(D) Pueblo

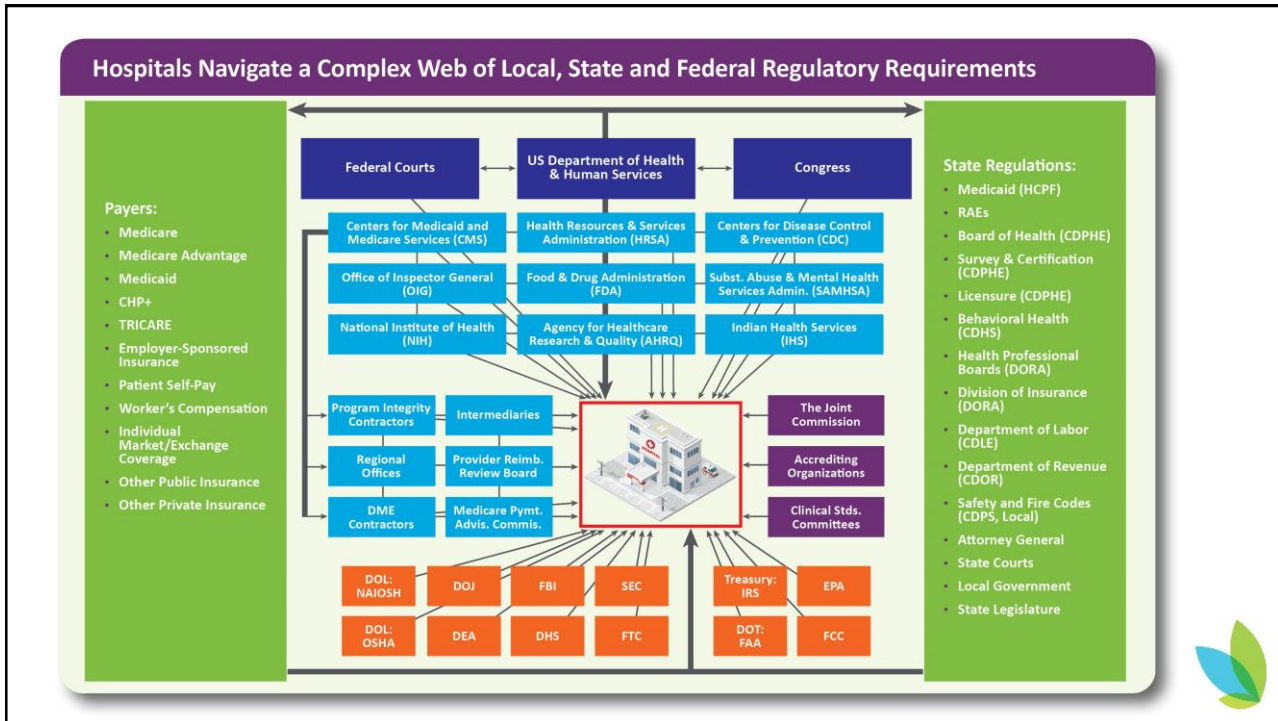


**Min. Leader Hugh McKean**  
(R) Loveland



**Min. Leader Chris Holbert**  
(R) Parker

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# Looking Back at the 2021 Legislative Session

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## 2021 Session Overview

Among the most progressive sessions in Colorado history

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

**Equity in Focus:** Housing protections, police reform, gun safety, climate change, preschool, transportation  
**Budget was Big:** Recovering economy; \$5.7b in federal stimulus to state, county, local governments; \$800m state stimulus


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

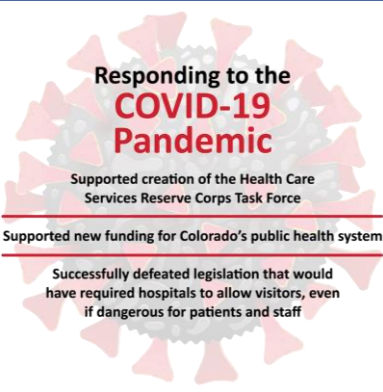


## 2021 CHA Results



### 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

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Supported new funding for Colorado's public health system

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



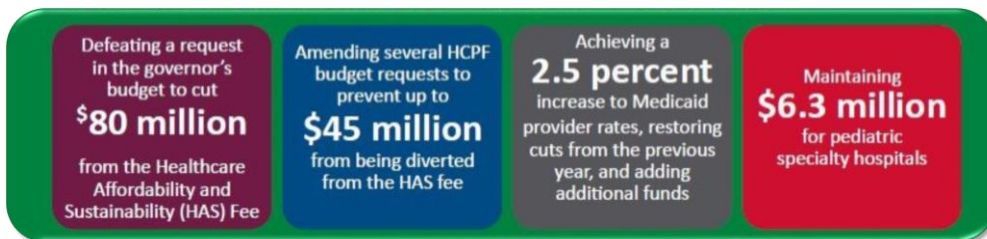
### Supporting Policies that Provide Resources and Improve Clinical Outcomes

- 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



## State Budget

- In 2020, the state budget faced a \$3.3 billion shortfall, and hospitals suffered significant cuts.
- In 2021, the legislature had nearly \$6 billion additional dollars due to federal COVID stimulus funds and passed a \$34.61 billion state budget for SFY 2021-22.
- CHA was successful in lobbying the Joint Budget Committee on key hospital funding issues:



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## Why Your Voice Is Important to the Debate



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SB19-201- Open Discussions About Adverse Health Care Incidents

HB 17-1094 Telehealth Coverage Under Health Benefit Plans

**SB 18-266 Controlling Medicaid Costs**

SB19-079- Electronic Prescribing Controlled Substances

**SB 17-065 Transparency in Direct Pay Health Care Prices**

HB 18-1006 Infant Newborn Screening

HB19-1001- Hospital Transparency Measures to Analyze Efficacy

HB19-1044- Advance Behavioral Health Orders Treatment

HB 18-1282 Health Care Provider Unique Identification Per Site Or Service

HB19-1233- Investments in Primary Care To Reduce Health Costs

SB19-004- Address High-cost Health Insurance Pilot Program

HB19-1010- Freestanding Emergency Departments Licensure

**HB19-1004- Proposal For Affordable Health Coverage Option**

SB19-227- Harm Reduction Substance Use Disorders

**HB19-1168- Reinsurance Program**

HB 18-1136 Substance Use Disorder Treatment

HB19-1174- Out-of-network Health Care Services

SB19-073- Statewide System Of Advance Medical Directives Professional Review Committees

HB19-1222- Maternal Mortality Review Committee

HB19-1287- Treatment For Opioids And Substance Use Disorders

HB 17-1087 Office of Public Guardianship Pilot Program

SB19-234- Sunset

HB19-1176- Health Care Cost Savings Act of 2019

HB 17-1353 Implement Medicaid Delivery & Payment Initiatives

SB19-228- Substance Use Disorders Prevention Measures

SB 18-270 Behavioral Health Crisis Transition Referral Program

HB19-1041- Require Surgical Smoke Protection Policies

HB 18-1007 Substance Use Disorder Payment And Coverage

SB 17-207 Strengthen Colorado Behavioral Health Crisis System

HB 18-1128 Protections For Consumer Data Privacy

SB 18-146 FSED Required Consumer Notices

HB 17-1139 Medicaid Provider Compliance Billing Safety Rules

HB 17-1284 Data System Check for Employees Serving At-risk Adults

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## Profile of a State Legislator

- 2- or 4-year terms, limited to 8 years per chamber and 16 years total
- “Part-time,” citizen legislature
- Often retired, many have careers outside of public service
- Session January – May; constituent services year-round

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## Profile of a Regulatory Board Member



- Appointed board members are often:
  - Professionals in the regulated sector
  - Consumers of the regulated services
  - Policy experts
- Unpaid, volunteer service
- 5-10 hours per month

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## Making Your Voice Heard at the State Level




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## Ways to Get Involved



State Legislative Debate



Annual Budget



State Regulatory Agencies

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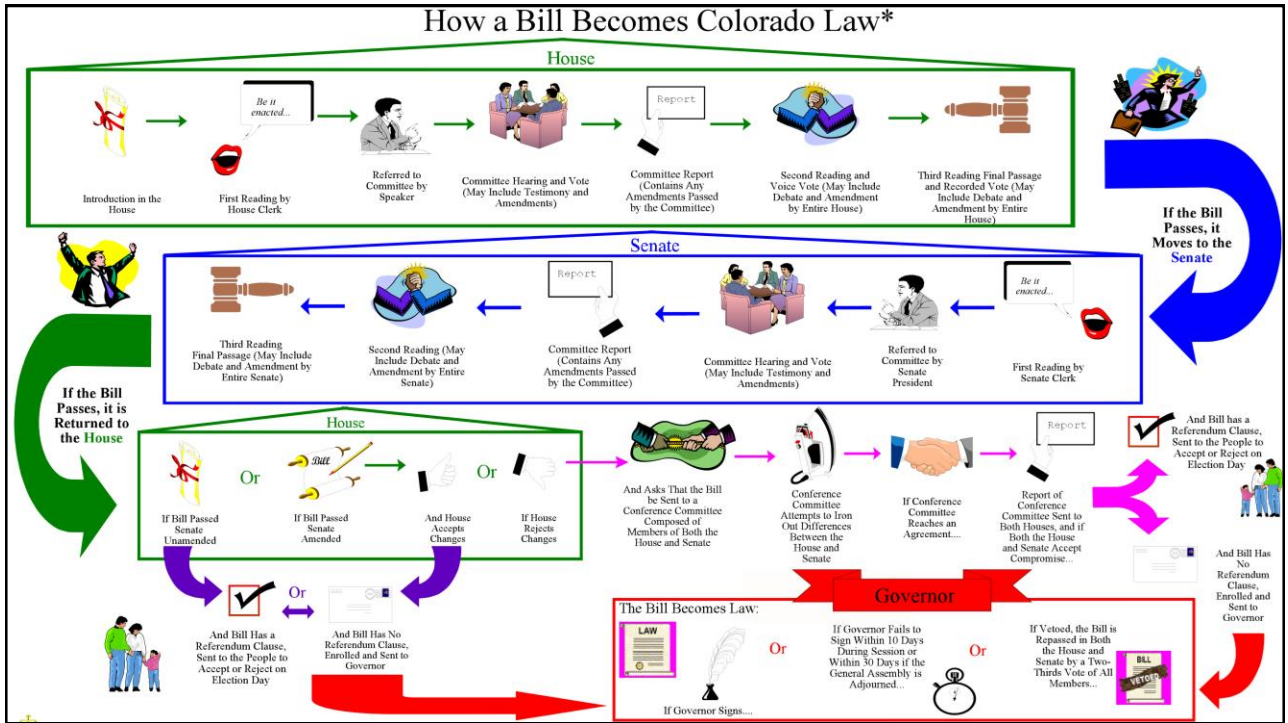
## Ways to Get Involved



State Legislative Debate

- Meet with your legislators, key health committee members
- Write an email, make a phone call
- Participate in a coalition or with a trade group such as CMS, CONL, CNA, or CHA
- Testify at a legislative hearing

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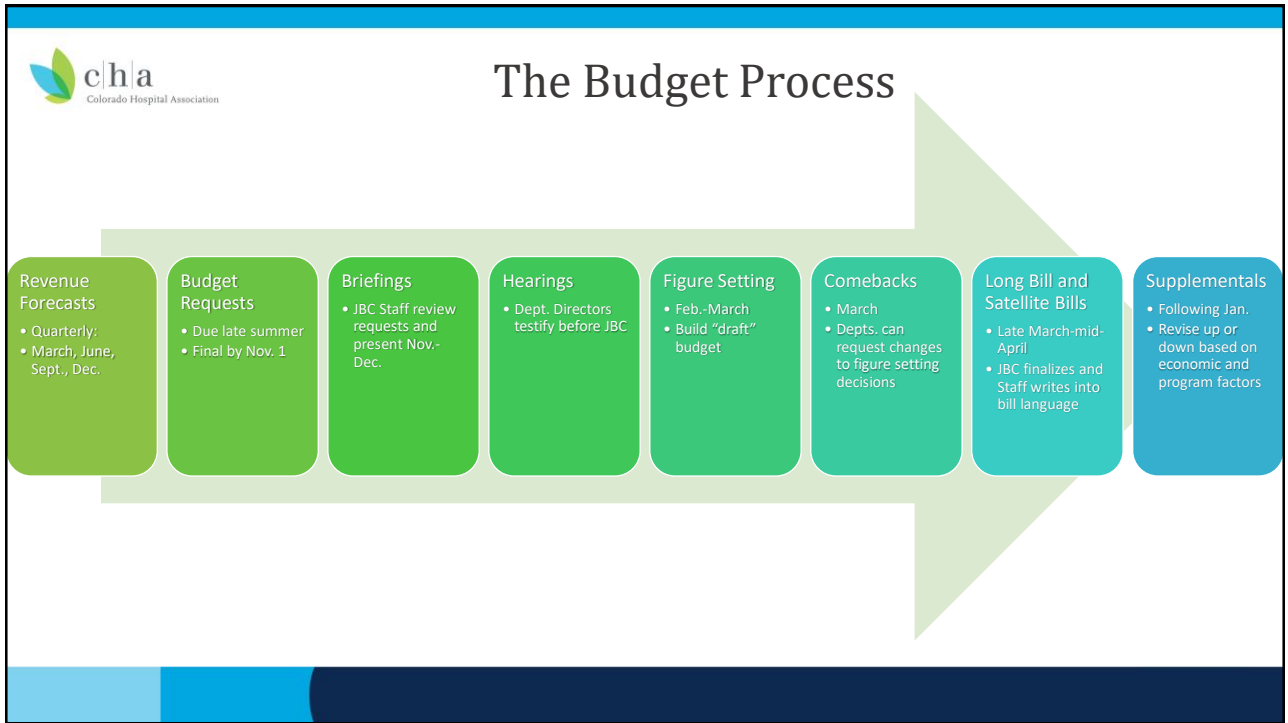
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## Ways to Get Involved

- The budget is a reflection of the state's priorities
- Policy reforms often begin with budget allocations
- Resources critical to access, affordability, staffing, safety of patients and workforce


Annual Budget

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## Joint Budget Committee (JBC)




Senator  
**Dominick Moreno**  
Chair




Representative  
**Julie McCluskie**  
Vice Chair




Senator  
**Chris Hansen**



Representative  
**Leslie Herod**



Senator  
**Bob Rankin**



Representative  
**Kim Ransom**

- Bipartisan committee (currently 4 Democrats, 2 Republicans)
- Chair alternates each year between Senate and House
- Meets year-round
- Members responsible for developing budget, shepherding through the legislative process, and maintaining fiscal oversight for State of Colorado

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## Ways to Get Involved



### State Regulatory Agencies

- Write an email, make a phone call to key staffers
- Testify at rulemaking hearings
- Join policy workgroups and advisory groups
- Sign up for notifications and newsletters

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## Key Health Agencies



Health Facilities,  
Patient Safety

[cdphe.colorado.gov](http://cdphe.colorado.gov)



State Medicaid Agency,  
Payment Reform

[hcpf.colorado.gov](http://hcpf.colorado.gov)



Behavioral Health and  
Human Services

[cdhs.colorado.gov](http://cdhs.colorado.gov)



Professional Licensure,  
Division of Insurance

[dora.colorado.gov](http://dora.colorado.gov)

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## Selected Resources



- Colorado General Assembly – [www.leg.colorado.gov](http://www.leg.colorado.gov)
- The Colorado Channel – [www.coloradochannel.net](http://www.coloradochannel.net)
- Colorado Hospital Association – [www.cha.com](http://www.cha.com)
- Colorado Organization of Nurse Leaders – [www.coloradonurseleaders.org](http://www.coloradonurseleaders.org)
- Center for Improving Value in Health Care – [www.civhc.org](http://www.civhc.org)
- Connect for Health Colorado – [www.connectforhealthco.com](http://www.connectforhealthco.com)
- Colorado Health Institute – [www.coloradohealthinstitute.org](http://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org)
- Colorado Health Foundation – [www.coloradohealth.org](http://www.coloradohealth.org)
- Colorado Nurses Association – [www.coloradonurses.org](http://www.coloradonurses.org)
- Colorado Medical Society – [www.cms.org](http://www.cms.org)
- Colorado Association of Health Plans – [www.colohealthplans.org](http://www.colohealthplans.org)

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## Telling Your Story

- Remember: You are the expert in your field.
- Ask questions, and let them ask questions of you.
- Focus on policy goals, potential unintended consequences, real-life impacts, and operational implementation.
- The policy details will be worked out in the legislative or regulatory process, but your stories are what will stick.



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## Homework Assignment



<https://myreps.datamade.us/index.html>

1. Take out your phone.
2. Open your camera.
3. Hover over the image on the left.
4. Enter your address.
5. Invite your State Senator and State Representative to coffee, offer to tell them about your experience as a health care leader over the past 20 months, and your thoughts about the future of health care in Colorado.

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## Evaluation

Please take moment to provide us with feedback on today's conversation so that we can improve future educational opportunities.



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