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## **WOMEN'S LOBBY OF COLORADO**

### **2009 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD**

We are pleased to present our first annual legislative scorecard reflecting women's priorities in the state of Colorado! The Women's Lobby of Colorado seeks to provide better opportunities for women in our state by ensuring that public policies reflect gender equity and justice. By consistently maintaining a daily lobbying presence at Colorado's 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.

We have inherited the legacy of the Colorado Women's Agenda's legislative scorecard, which they historically compiled on women's issues. They have discontinued this effort and encouraged us to take on the service of providing factual, nonpartisan information on each elected official's voting record. This marks the first annual legislative scorecard of the Women's Lobby of Colorado. We hope that this scorecard will serve as a guide to Coloradans on issues that are important to women. Provided in this scorecard are the voting records of each member of the Colorado State Legislature on priority bills considered in the 2009 session.

We hope that you will carefully examine the scores of legislators and write or call elected officials to let them know that you reviewed their votes. You can determine who your state senator and state representative are by visiting [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org).

## Scoring

Ten bills were selected representing a range of women's issues. The bills were either priority bills for the Women's Lobby of Colorado, or for our member organizations, or for our partners in coalition efforts. The scorecard was compiled from 3<sup>rd</sup> reading votes recorded in the official state legislative journals.

A "Y" indicates the legislator voted to approve the bill. A "N" indicates they voted against the bill. "E" means they were excused. All of the bills rated were supported by the Women's Lobby of Colorado, i.e. a "Y" also indicates consistency with the position of the Women's Lobby of Colorado. Total ratings are based on Yes votes. An excused legislator might have planned to vote yes on particular bills, but our rates are based on actually casting a vote to pass a bill.

## Summary of bills

**HB 1057 Parental Involvement for School Activities- Representative Andy Kerr; Senator Bob Bacon** – Colorado parents no longer have to choose between being good parents and good employees. This new law requires employers of fifty or more employees to allow employees to take up to 18 hours, unpaid, per year to participate in their children's critical academic activities without fear of losing their jobs. Decades of research demonstrates that when parents are involved, students have higher grades, test scores and graduation rates, as well as better school attendance, increased motivation, better self-esteem, lower rates of suspension, decreased use of drugs and alcohol, and fewer instances of violent behavior. *Passed House 35-30; passed Senate 21-13, 1 excused. Status HB1057: Signed into Law*

**SB 68 Funding for Domestic Abuse Services – Senator John Morse; Representative Beth McCann** – Institutes an additional \$20 fee on marriage licences and appropriates \$10 of a fee from each divorcing party to fund domestic abuse services for married, separated or divorced victims of domestic violence. Will generate about \$1 million per year. *Passed Senate 20-13, 2 excused; passed House 36 – 26, 3 excused. Status SB 68: Signed into Law*

**SB 110 Continue Civil Rights Division and Commission – Senator John Morse, Representative Claire Levy** - Reauthorized the Colorado Civil Right Commission and Division until July 1, 2018 to investigate and make determinations on charges of discriminatory practices. Gives it the new power to investigate certain cases of discrimination even in the absence of a named complainant. Also prevents discrimination related to "terms, conditions, and privileges" of employment. If in violation of any fair employment practices, allows the court in the county where the violation occurred to order the complainant to pay a \$50-\$500 per-violation fine to the aggrieved party. *Passed Senate 30-3, 2 excused; passed House 52-13. Status: Signed into Law*

**HB 1224 No Gender Consideration in Individual Health Insurance Rates – Representative Sue Schafer; Senator Morgan Carroll** — Women pay more than men

when shopping for insurance in the individual market.. Federal law has prohibited gender discrimination in employer-provided health insurance since the Civil Rights Act 1964 but that does not protect those who must purchase on the individual health market. This new law refers the topic of gender discrimination in health insurance policy pricing to the Health Care Task Force for examination. *Passed House 49-16; passed Senate 25-9, 1 excused. Status: Signed into Law*

**SB 170 Non-Discrimination in Higher Education Tuition Rates - Senator Chris Romer; Representative Joe Miklosi** – Would have allowed students who attended a Colorado high school for at least three years or who received their GED in this state to qualify for in-state tuition rates and be eligible to receive state-funded tuition assistance, regardless of immigration status. *Lost on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 16-18, 1 excused. Votes are recorded second reading votes. Status: Killed on the Senate floor, and is therefore only included in Senator ratings, not Representative ratings*

**SB 225 Birth Control Protection Act – Senator Betty Boyd, Representative Anne McGihon**– Defines Birth Control as any medically acceptable drug, device, or procedure used to prevent pregnancy, including emergency contraceptions that do not include drugs or devices intended to abort pregnancies. Protects pregnancy prevention methods from being mischaracterized as methods meant to induce abortion. *Passed Senate 24-11, passed House 39-25, 1 excused. Status: Signed into Law*

**SB 247 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Stimulus Funds – Senator Lois Tochtrop, Representative Sal Pace**– Allows for the federally funded extension of unemployment benefits, with the state qualifying for \$127 million in Unemployment Insurance stimulus (ARRA) money. It also provides funding to cover 13,000 unemployed Coloradans with 20 additional weeks of unemployment benefits, and extends benefits to people in job training programs. Adopts Alternative Base Period for benefits calculation, allowing many very low wage workers to qualify for UI sooner. *Passed Senate 22-13, passed House 43-22. Status: Signed into Law.*

**HB 1064 Economic Opportunity and Poverty Reduction Task Force – Representative John Kefalas, Senator Paula Sandoval** – The task force is charged with developing a strategic, integrated plan to reduce the number of Coloradans living in poverty by half and expand economic opportunities for people statewide over the next 10 years. The Task Force will also study issues relating to nutrition programs, employment programs, and self-sufficiency. *Passed House 42-23, passed Senate 21-12, 2 excused. Status: Signed into Law*

**HB 1164 Surcharge Breast Cancer Awareness License Plates – Representative Dianne Primavera, Senator Ken Kester** – Creates an optional \$25 surcharge on the Committed to a Cure Breast Cancer Awareness license plate, with the new fee going to help fund treatment for low-income uninsured women who are not covered for prevention and treatment under the "Colorado Medical Assistance Act" because of which clinic diagnosed their breast cancer. Previously, all funds from these license plates went to the Highway Users Trust Fund. *Passed House 60-4, 1 excused; passed Senate 33-3, 1 excused.*

*Status: Signed into Law*

**HB 1260 Colorado Designated Beneficiary Agreement-Representative Mark Ferrandino, Senator Jennifer Veiga--** This law allows any two adults who are not or cannot be married to enter into an agreement, making each adult a decision-maker in case of incapacity or a beneficiary in case of death. By signing a simple form at their county clerk's office, Coloradans can now easily and inexpensively choose who they want to make decisions in case of emergency or death. Some of the specific areas covered in the law include: inheritance protection, life insurance benefits, health benefits, wrongful death, workers' compensation, hospital and nursing home visitation and medical decision-making. *Passed House 41-24; passed Senate 2 -10, 2 excused. Status: Signed into Law*





Representatives	Dis	Counties	SB68	SB 110	SB 225	SB 247	HB1057	HB 1064	HB1164	HB1224	HB1260	%
May, Mike	R	44 Douglas	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	44
McCann, Beth	D	8 Denver	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
McFadyen, "Buffie"	D	47 Fremont, Pueblo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	89
McGihon, Anne	D	3 Arapahoe, Denver		Y		Y	Resign	Y	Y	Y	Y	*
McKinley, Wes	D	Baca, Bent, Huerfano, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	78
McNulty, Frank	R	43 Douglas	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	33
Merrifield, Michael	D	18 El Paso	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Middleton, Karen	D	42 Arapahoe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Miklosi, Joe	D	9 Denver, Arapahoe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Murray, Carole	R	45 Douglas, Teller	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	11
Nikkel, B.J.	R	49 Larimer, Weld	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	11
Pace, Sat	D	46 Pueblo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Peniston, Cherylin	D	35 Adams	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Pommer, Jack	D	11 Boulder	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Primavera, Dianne	D	33 Weld	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	89
Priola, Kevin	R	30 Adams	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	55
Rice, Joe	D	38 Arapahoe, Jefferson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	89
Riesberg, James	D	50 Weld	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	89
Roberts, Ellen	R	Archuleta, La Plata,		Y								
Ryden, Su	D	59 Montezuma, San Juan	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	78
Scanlan, Christine	D	36 Arapahoe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Schafer, Sue	D	56 Eagle, Lake, Summit	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Solano, Judy	D	24 Jefferson	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	89
Sonnenberg, Jerry	R	31 Adams	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Soper, John	D	Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick,		Y								
Stephens, Amy	R	65 Weld	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	11
Summers, Ken	R	34 Adams	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	89
Swalm, Spencer	R	20 El Paso	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	22
Tipton, Scott	R	22 Jefferson	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	33
Todd, Nancy	D	37 Arapahoe	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	22
Vaad, Glenn	R	Delta, Dolores, Montezuma,		Y								
	R	58 Montrose, Ouray, S. Miguel	E	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	33
	D	41 Arapahoe, Denver	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
	R	48 Weld	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	22

Representatives	Dis	Counties	SB68	SB 110	SB 225	SB 247	HB1057	HB 1064	HB1164	HB1224	HB1260	%
Vigil, Ed	D	Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla,	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100
Waller, Mark	R	Huerfano, Mineral Pueblo	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	11
Weissmann, Paul	D	El Paso	E	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	80
		Boulder										

\*NOTE: Representative Dan Kagan replaced Rep. Anne McGihon mid-session. Their votes are recorded, but not totaled for this reason. Votes for both are recorded on HB 1224 because Rep. McGihon voted for the bill's initial passage, while Rep. Kagan voted for the final version from Conference Committee.