

SB 238: An Act to Strengthen and Enhance the Home Care Workforce

Sponsored by Senators Danielson and Moreno and Representatives Kennedy and Duran



Colorado Care Workers Unite, a home care worker-led organization, asks you to support SB 238 and the principles of fairness, dignity, and respect it promotes for caregivers.



What does this Act do?

Raises wages of home care workers: The bill provides an 8.1% increase in provider rates for FY2019-20, slated to go directly to compensation for personal care aides and homemakers. Starting in July 2020 it establishes a wage floor of \$12.41 for workers providing Medicaid-funded home care services. For FY20-21, 85% of any provider rate increase will go to compensation for home care workers. Agencies will need to file reports documenting their compliance with the pass-through requirements.

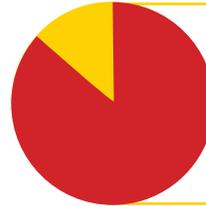
Stakeholder Group on Training and Worker Notification: The Dept. Of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), in consultation with stakeholders, will establish a process to review and enforce training requirements for home care workers. The stakeholder group will also advise the departments on how to notify home care workers of the compensation increases and wage floor.

(continued on the other side)

For more information contact Will Coyne at (720) 308-7931.



HOME CARE WORKERS
make an **median** wage of
\$11.68/HR = \$24,294/YR
FOR FULL TIME WORK



OVER 80%
of home care workers
ARE WOMEN

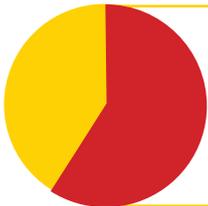
Why is this Act necessary

The numbers of Coloradans needing home care will increase, with demand for care far exceeding available caregivers.

More than 43,000 Coloradans rely on Medicaid-funded and administered Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) to stay healthy and remain as independent as possible.[1] A majority of these consumers receive home care services - for example, assistance with bathing and dressing - that are typically delivered by personal care attendants and homemaker providers, collectively referred to as home care workers. The numbers of Coloradans needing such care will

increase as the population of older adults is growing at an unprecedented rate; the demand for personal care attendants is projected to grow 60% between 2014 (19,820 personal care aides needed) and 2024 (32,110 personal care aides needed).[2]

Home care saves money and is a valuable investment for Colorado, but home care workers remain poorly compensated and largely ignored in the long-term care system. An AARP report notes that “on average, the Medicaid program can provide HCBS to three people for the cost of serving one person in a nursing home.”[3]



155 COLORADANS TURN 65 EVERY DAY
DEMAND for personal care
attendants is projected to **GROW 60%**

This bill has been endorsed by:

9to5 Colorado
AARP Colorado
ADAPT
Alzheimer’s Association of Colorado
ARC of Colorado
Bell Policy Center
Colorado AFL-CIO
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Cross Disability Coalition

Colorado Fiscal Institute
Colorado People’s Alliance (COPA)
Colorado Working Families Party
Disability Law Center
Mi Familia Vota
National MS Society
NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado
New Era
Progress Now
Together Colorado
United for a New Economy (UNE)

[1] <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/HCPF%2C%20FY18%2C%20Line%20Item%20Description%20and%20Department%20Reference%20Resource.pdf> See p.F134, (LTSS and IDD).

[2] <https://pbnational.org/policy-research/workforce-data-center/#states=08&var=Employment+Projections>

[3] https://www.aarp.org/health/health-care-reform/info-06-2009/fs_hcbs_hcr.html

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