Support SB 16-190:
Improve EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS of Public Assistance Programs


SB 16-190 will improve the overall administration of Food Assistance in Colorado. Specifically, it will:

- Require the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and county departments of human services (county departments) to endeavor to meet federal performance measures for administering the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known in Colorado as Food Assistance.

- Require CDHS to work with county departments to establish a system that allows certain federal performance bonuses or sanctions to be applied to those county departments based on effectiveness and efficiency.

- Authorize the use of state-funded administration performance bonuses to county departments if the state appropriates funds for such a purpose.

- At the request of various counties across Colorado, the bill directs an external vendor to collaborate with counties to collect and analyze county department costs and performance associated with administering public assistance programs, including: Food Assistance, Medicaid, Children’s Basic Health Plan, Colorado Works, the Old Age Pension program, the Program for Aid to the Needy Disabled and Long Term Care Services.

- Require CDHS to design a continuous quality improvement program for the county departments, in order to establish a process for consistent enhancement of state and county administration.

Why SB 16-190 Matters:

Colorado currently ranks 45th in the U.S. for access to food assistance. The state also loses more than $686,000,000 in grocery sales annually—funds that could help Coloradans in need as well as boost our state’s economy.

Food Assistance is a critical, short-term support for thousands of Coloradans, and it is vital that the program run as effectively and efficiently as possible to deliver these services. Food stamps provide eligible families with modest monthly funds to purchase food, averaging only about $1.40 per person, per meal. The majority of those eligible are children, seniors, working adults, veterans and those who are disabled.

Every program funded by taxpayers should be transparent and accountable to the community and those it seeks to serve. Nationally, food stamps is one of the most vigorously regulated benefits with 92% of federal program spending going directly to those in need and a fraud rate of only about 1%. Despite the effectiveness and efficiency of the program nationally, Colorado’s state-supervised, county-based system underperforms in some of the key metrics and can be improved; that is the focus of SB-190.
Supporters of SB 16-190:

All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition
American Diabetes Association – Colorado Chapter
AVALID DreamLINK
The Bell Policy Center
Children’s Hospital of Colorado
City Square
Colorado Center on Law & Policy
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved
Colorado Council of Churches
Colorado Children’s Campaign
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
Colorado Fair Share
Colorado Fiscal Institute
Colorado Gerontological Society
Colorado Senior Lobby
Cooking Matters Colorado
Denver Inner City Parish
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Food Bank of the Rockies
Healthier Colorado
Hunger Free Colorado
Kaiser Permanente
La Puente Home
LiveWell Colorado
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry – Colorado
Mile High United Way
Montview Presbyterian Church – Social Justice Ministry
Project Angel Heart
Rocky Mountain Farmers’ Union
Rocky Mountain Food Industry Association

CONTACTS:
Scott Chase: schase@politicalworks.net or 303.324.1121
Cate Blackford: cate@hungerfreecolorado.org or 303.228.7990