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 TO 5 COLORADO

LEGISLATIVE
SUMMARY

9to5.org/chapter/colorado



A message from the director

Thank you to all of our sponsors, allies, community leaders, partners, and members. These wins would not be possible, if not for the communities and people with whom we build.

Once again, 9to5 and our members achieved what we set out to do: to shift power into the hands of community members most impacted by the lack of economic justice in Colorado. Staff and members were featured in numerous media sources, hosted several trainings, strategy sessions, and stakeholder meetings to prepare to engage in the session, and some testified in front of their legislators for the very first time. Our two mobile home bills and paid sick days bill were some of the only bills that extend beyond the pandemic that passed during the brief reopening of the session in May and June. Two executive orders from the governor included demands we proposed to create protections for tenants unable to pay rent. All of these wins speak to the powerful foundation for economic justice that 9to5 and partner organizations have built over many years, creating a strong and formidable presence at the capitol.

While we are proud to have taken steps forward on the path to economic justice this legislative session, we were part of many conversations behind closed doors and in public that were alarming and discouraging, from the very people that should have stood with us. HB20-1141 would have capped late fees for tenants to a reasonable amount, yet it died in committee 3-8. Rep. Duran, Rep. Coleman, and Rep. Bird voted in favor, while Rep. Kraft-Tharp, Rep. Arndt, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Snyder, Rep. Van Winkle, Rep. Will, Rep. Sandridge, and Rep. McKean voted against.

Paid Family and Medical Leave was never introduced, in large part because legislators who had voted in favor of a social insurance program in the past, caved into the idea of a privatized program that would have left out the workers who need this program the most. A moratorium on evictions was not extended, and now our members are at the mercy of landlords and district courts as to whether or not they can stay in their homes.

The effects of this global pandemic in Colorado were only exacerbated by the fact that these issues weren't addressed earlier. Despite that fact, there were legislators on both sides of the aisle that did not want to pass legislation proceeding the pandemic.

Not surprisingly, it was women of color legislators that stood with us against the pressure; Rep. Gonzales-Gutierrez, Sen. Gonzales, Rep. Jackson, Rep. Duran, and Rep. Caraveo, Sen. Fields, Rep. Herod.

We would also like to thank our bill sponsors that held the line for community and who also stood for ALL of our issues; Rep. Hooton, Senator Moreno, Rep. McCluskie, Sen. Winter, Sen. Fenberg, Rep. Gray, Rep. Exum.

Economic justice is social justice. Economic justice is racial justice. Economic justice is gender justice. And until we internalize these intersections, we will continue perpetuating the white supremacist patriarchal systems we are fighting against.

This legislative session has proven to us that the fight for economic justice in Colorado is far from over.

We're grateful to everyone who has worked in solidarity with us this year. We look forward to continuing to collaboratively build on our collective work to achieve justice and a better Colorado for all of our families.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrea Chiriboga Flor'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea Chiriboga Flor

Thank you to organizations who partnered with us during this hard working legislative session! Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights, Colorado Fiscal Institute, Family Values @ Work, Good Business Colorado, Right to the City, The Bell Policy Center, United for a New Economy, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, Party for Socialism & Liberation, Denver Democratic Socialists of America, Padres y Jóvenes Unidos, Women's Lobby, Colorado Center for Law and Policy, Together Colorado, Working Families Party, Colorado People's Alliance, Communication Workers of America (CWA 7777), SEIU 105, Denver Homeless Out Loud, UFCW 7, Our Home Our Right, Mi Familia Vota, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, COVID-19 Eviction Defense Project and others.

COVID-19 WORK OVERVIEW

The 2020 Legislative Session was interrupted by the public health crisis of COVID-19, but our work didn't stop. We continued to advocate for the relief & safety of our communities.

RAPID RESPONSE CARE FUND

Once the pandemic hit CO, we quickly pivoted to form a Rapid Response Care Fund in April to support our members. So far, we have helped about 100 families by giving over \$50,000 in financial aid for basic necessities.



EO 051

We fought for an eviction & foreclosure moratorium for weeks, and on April 30, Gov Polis signed an EO that limited evictions, foreclosures, and public utility disconnections and expedited unemployment insurance claim processing.

EO 088

As the fight for protections during the pandemic continued, we worked for MORE. On May 29, Gov Polis signed an EO that extended the moratorium and made provisions that were previously "strong suggestions" a requirement.

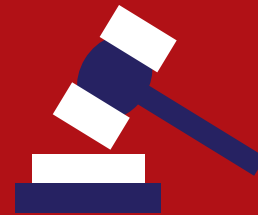


LEGAL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

Through social media, interviews, informational materials, and Know Your Rights trainings, we have provided information to over 2,000 people about both employment and housing law.

9T05 ATTORNEY

From the beginning of the session until now attorney Jason Legg has helped about 30 people directly that have faced eviction or had housing imminently jeopardized.



CHAPTER MEDIA HITS

9t05 Colorado as a chapter, and our staff, were featured in 16 different articles, published by 9 different publications, that covered our work on of paid leave and housing.

PRIORITY BILLS



HB 20-1141, FEES CHARGED TO TENANTS BY LANDLORDS

Rep Hooton, Rep McCluskie, Sen Fenberg, Sen Lee

9to5 Role: Lead | Status: Died

HB 1141 would have ensured that late fees are disclosed in lease agreements, limited late fees to a certain % or \$ and to one per late payment, required that the late fee calculation for subsidized housing tenants is based on the tenant's share of the rent and only allowed the imposition of late fees if they pay their portion late, allowed a reasonable time frame after the rent is due before a late fee can be charged, prohibited interest from being charged on a late fee, and prevented eviction based on nonpayment of late fees.

HB 20-1196, MOBILE HOME PARK ACT UPDATES

Rep Hooton, Rep McCluskie, Sen Fenberg, Sen Lee

9to5 Role: Lead | Status: Passed

HB 1196 updates and improves Colorado's existing Mobile Home Park Act (MHPA). Coupled with the new Dispute Resolution and Enforcement Program from last year's HB 19-1309, manufactured home owners will enjoy greater rights plus a public mechanism to have violations investigated and resolved. HB 1196 addresses retaliation, arbitrary evictions, arbitrary and capricious rules, transparent billing for utilities, operable utilities and services, park owner responsibilities, and right to privacy.



HB 20-1201, MOBILE HOME PARK RESIDENTS OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE

Rep Hooton, Rep Gonzales-Gutierrez, Sen Moreno, Sen Ginal

9to5 Role: Lead | Status: Passed

HB 1201 is an important step in giving Colorado manufactured home residents the opportunity to not just purchase a community, but also control their own future as homeowners. The bill sets standards for the opportunity to purchase process, including notification, transparency, resident organization, fair negotiation, public sector or nonprofit involvement, and timely process.



PRIORITY BILLS



SB 20-205, SICK LEAVE FOR EMPLOYEES

Sen Fenberg, Sen Bridges, Rep Becker, Rep Caraveo

9to5 Role: Lead | Status: Passed

SB 205 establishes new paid sick days protections for workers. For years 9to5 Colorado has led and advocated for better working protections through our paid family and medical leave (PFML) campaign. Paid sick days does not replace PFML by any means and in fact is complementary to PFML since they are used for very different circumstances. This victory would not have been possible without the legacy of our members and partner organizations that have worked on similar legislation in the past and their leadership in the paid leave movement in Colorado.



HB 20-1410, COVID-19-RELATED HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Rep Gonzales-Gutierrez, Rep Exum, Sen Gonzales, Sen Zenzinger

9to5 Role: Lead | Status: Passed

HB 1410 addresses assistance for individuals facing housing-related hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill allocates money given to the state by the federal "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" to the eviction legal defense fund and the housing development grant fund.

SUPPORTING BILLS



HB 20-1332, PROHIBIT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION SOURCE OF INCOME

Rep Herod, Rep Jackson, Sen Fields

9to5 Role: Support | Status: Passed

HB 1332, which we did not lead but are in strong support, adds discrimination based on source of income as a type of unfair housing practice.

SUPPORTING BILLS



SB 20-224, LANDLORD PROHIBITIONS TENANT CITIZENSHIP STATUS

Sen Gonzales, Rep Gonzales-Gutierrez

9to5 Role: Support | Status: Passed

SB 224 creates the "Immigrant Tenant Protection Act", which prohibits a landlord from engaging in certain housing practices or related activities based on the immigration or citizenship status of a tenant.



HB 20-1351, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY PROMOTE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

Rep Lontine, Rep Gonzales-Gutierrez, Sen Gonzales, Sen Rodriguez

9to5 Role: Support | Status: Died

HB 1351 would have clarified that cities and counties (local governments) may regulate development or redevelopment in order to promote the construction of new affordable housing units.



HB 20-1420, ADJUST TAX EXPENDITURES FOR STATE EDUCATION FUND

Rep Sirota, Rep Gray, Sen Moreno, Sen Hansen

9to5 Role: Support | Status: Passed

HB 1420 separates Colorado from the federal tax code, ends nine exemptions for certain businesses and individuals, and provides tax relief to low-income workers.

SUPPORTING BILLS



HB 20-1153, COLORADO PARTNERSHIP FOR QUALITY JOBS AND SERVICES ACT

Rep Esgar, Sen Garcia, Sen Pettersen

9to5 Role: Support | Status: Passed

HB 1153 creates the "Colorado Partnership for Quality Jobs and Services Act", which facilitates the creation of formal labor-management partnership agreements between state employees in the state personnel system and the executive branch of state government.



SB 20-217, ENHANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY

Sen Garcia, Sen Fields, Rep Herod, Rep Gonzales-Gutierrez

9to5 Role: Support | Status: Passed

SB 217 ensures protection of citizens from law enforcement through the mandate of officer body-worn cameras, criminal justice data transparency, the end of qualified immunity, protest & demonstration protections, limitation of use of force, and the mandate of officer intervention in incidents of unlawful physical force.



HB 20-1415, WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Rep Herod, Rep Sullivan, Sen Pettersen, Sen Rodriguez

9to5 Role: Support | Status: Passed

HB 1415 prevents employers, labor contractors, public employers, and entities that rely on independent contractors from discriminating, retaliating, or taking adverse action against workers who raise concerns about workplace health and safety practices or public health emergency hazards or who voluntarily wear their own personal protective equipment at the workplace.

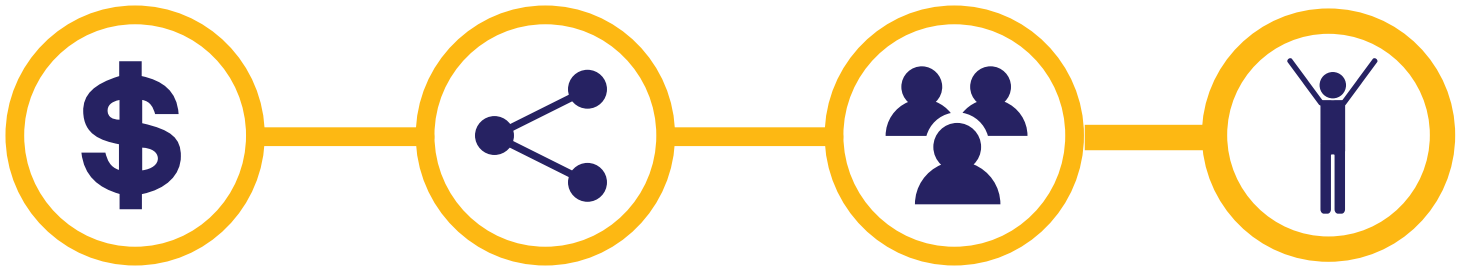
WHAT'S NEXT

We're proud of the work we were able to accomplish this past legislative session and are ready for the next steps. We will be ramping up our Know Your Rights and Leadership Development curriculum this summer and into the fall to make sure our members are aware of their new rights and what to do if their rights are violated. We will be engaging in strategic planning around overturning the statewide ban on rent control as a long-term strategy with our Colorado Homes For All partner organizations. Our Rapid Response Care Fund and Legal Housing Defense Program will be expanding as our communities face mass evictions and economic hardships due to this global pandemic.

Our biggest bucket of work will involve the Colorado Families First ballot initiative to pass Paid Family and Medical Leave for Coloradans, once and for all.

2020 has been devastating for our communities, and we will continue to pivot and adapt as best we can. The priorities we have led have only come into sharper focus because of current events. In order to advance economic justice and witness a future that is grounded in the values we uphold, we must build our people power across the state, and that is exactly what we intend to do. The work continues!

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