



Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - Colorado  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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## Poverty Legislation 2011

### *Low-income Telephone Assistance Program – Senate Bill 002 (support)*

Status: Passed Senate & House; Signed by Governor Hickenlooper on March 21st

### *House Bill 1224 (oppose)*

Status: Failed in House Transportation Committee

The Low-income Telephone Assistance Program provides landline telephone services to low-income seniors and others providing them with basic phone service in case of an emergency. Senate Bill 002 adds the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program to the list of programs that will qualify someone for the program. House Bill 1224 eliminates the program entirely, affecting the 20,000 people who currently receive help.

### *Transfers of TANF to County Reserves – Senate Bill 124 (oppose)*

Status: Passed Senate & House; Signed by Governor Hickenlooper on May 19<sup>th</sup>

This bill would have increased the amount of money counties can keep in reserves for TANF (Colorado's welfare program) programs from 30% to 70% of their annual block grant amount (as amended, it increases allowable reserves of 40%). During a time of economic hardship for all, especially the poor served by this program, every dollar coming into Colorado should be spent now to help those in need.

### *Payday Lending – House Bill 1290 (oppose)*

Status: Passed House; Failed in Senate Committee on Local Government.

Last year, CIVJ worked to secure reforms in payday lending, and a key provision allows borrowers to receive a prorated refund of the origination fee if they repay the loan early. This bill would significantly undermine those reforms by making the origination fee non-refundable, and allowing payday lenders to keep the full amount of the fee regardless of how early the loan is repaid.



Colorado Council  
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***Disability Benefit License Plate Numbers – House Bill 1216 (support)***

Status: Passed House & Senate; Signed by Governor Hickenlooper on April 26<sup>th</sup>

By auctioning off highly sought after letter/number combinations for license plates (such as BRONCO #1, AVSFAN, #1 MOM) this bill would raise funds for Colorado and the money would go towards helping expedite the process for individuals applying for SSI/SSDI benefits.

***Reduce Youth Homelessness -1079 (support)***

Status: Passed House & Senate; Signed by Governor Hickenlooper on March 31st

Adheres state law to the federal "Runaway and Homeless Youth Act" by 1) removing the lower age limit for "homeless youth and increasing the upper limit from 18 to 21years; 2) increasing the time they can stay in a child-care facility or youth shelter from 14 to 21 days; and 3) allowing a host family home to serve as an allowable placement for 21 days,. The bill also encourages county departments of social services to 1) assess 17-year olds to determine whether they are ready to become independent at 18 or should continue receiving services until they're 21, and 2) develop an individual plan for self-sufficiency for each youth under their care.

***School Breakfast Funding – House Bill 1227 (Support)***

Status: Funding was fully restored through a supplemental budget request.

The Joint Budget Committee approved a cut of \$124,000 from the program that provides breakfast at school for poor children. This bill reverses that decision, allowing schools to continue providing breakfast through the end of the school year.

***For Questions or more information about these bills, please contact:***

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