CALPHO

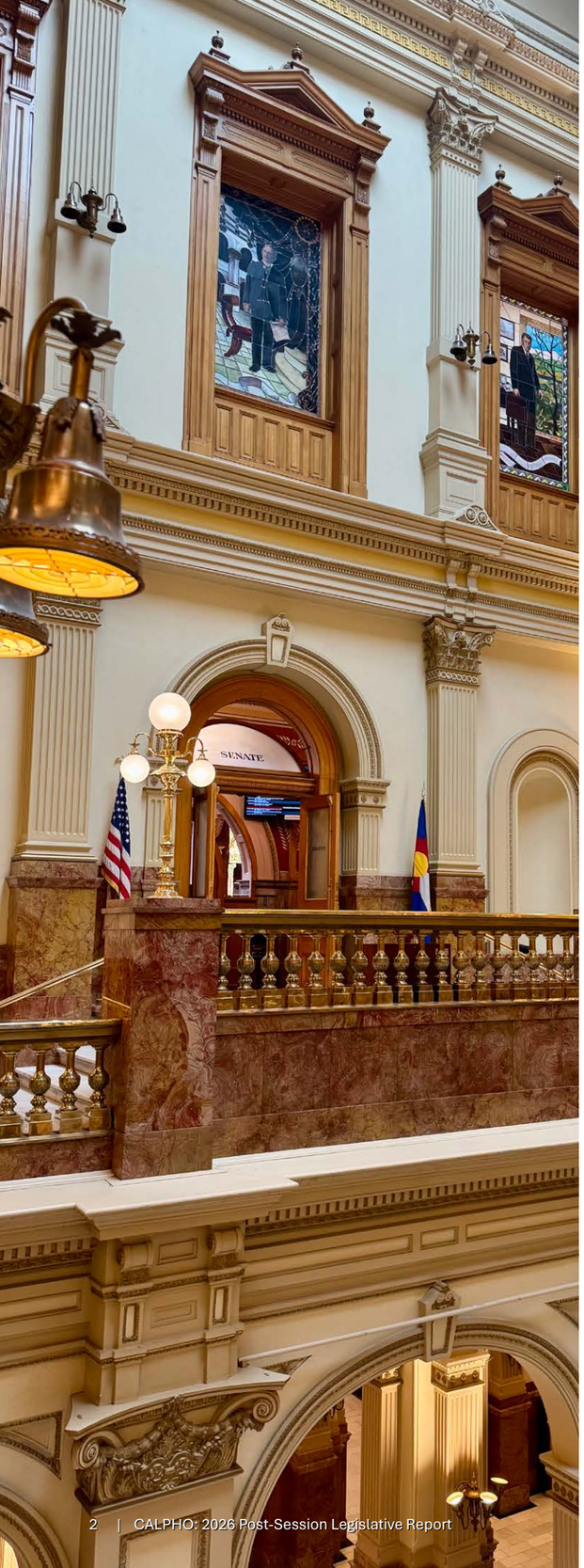


2026 POST-SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

PREPARED BY ALLIE MORGAN, POLICY DIRECTOR

June 2026



Acknowledgements

CALPHO relies on key partners to conduct effective advocacy and achieve successful policy outcomes. In addition to the dedicated members of our Policy Committee (both voting and non-voting) and our Board of Directors, we wish to acknowledge Eliza Schultz of Schultz Public Affairs, LLC, CALPHO's contract lobbyist and primary voice at the state Capitol; members of the Colorado Directors of Environmental Health Legislative Technical Advisory Subcommittee; and staff at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and other state offices. Our policy impact would be limited without these individuals' expertise and collaboration.

About CALPHO

The Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO) is the professional association representing Colorado's 56 local public health agencies. Our mission is to connect and empower local public health leaders and advocate for a strong, effective, and sustainable public health system.

CALPHO has three pillars of work: providing member supports, enhancing partnerships with state agencies and other stakeholders, and advancing policy and advocacy priorities. Our policy work is guided by members' needs and interests in creating, maintaining, and improving the systems, structures, and funding sources that allow LPHAs to be successful in serving their communities and acting as effective health strategists. CALPHO's bill positions and annual legislative reports are available on our website at www.calpho.org/policy--advocacy.html.

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Introduction

It's starting to sound like a broken record: The dire state budget situation was the story of the 2026 Colorado legislative session.

Structural fiscal pressures have increasingly constrained the state's ability to respond to emerging needs, and now that additional funding related to pandemic recovery has dried up, those pressures don't appear to be receding anytime soon. The lack of available funding created a scarcity environment that limited what bills could be introduced, encouraged more behind-the-scenes dealmaking, and incentivized legislation that tapped into value statements. Coming on top of uncertainty about federal policy decisions and local budget shortfalls, it was a difficult year for local public health agency (LPHA) leaders working to manage limited resources while providing a long list of critical community services.

Many bills that may have advanced in a better budget year were either narrowed substantially or abandoned altogether because of cost. Proposals with significant fiscal notes were routinely delayed, stripped down, or converted to rely on outside funding sources rather than ongoing state dollars. With a handful of exceptions, legislators pursued targeted policy fixes and compromise-driven measures designed to be more politically and fiscally achievable than large-scale system overhauls.

Members of the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) again did their best to find money under the couch cushions, including everything from cash funds to grant programs to reserves, while protecting education and preserving direct services as much as possible. The mood at the end of the session was often characterized by fatigue and frustration, especially as complex issues were crunched for time. And yet there were clear wins and heartening progress for CALPHO and LPHAs. While legislators had to cut important state funding, they spoke out strongly about the importance of local public health, especially in budget-related conversations.

Lawmakers were focused throughout the session on affordability concerns facing Coloradans. However, those conversations often focused on opportunities for immediate savings at the expense of longer-term population health and prevention strategies. Public health advocates repeatedly found themselves making the case that prevention-oriented investments are not separate from affordability conversations, but rather central to reducing long-term costs for individuals, communities, and the state. At the same time, LPHAs worried about an increased workload or unfunded mandates from some new policies, such as an expansion of the state's Cottage Foods Act.

Several broader tensions consistently surfaced throughout the session. Debates over labor policy, workplace protections, and artificial intelligence highlighted clashes between corporate interests and workers. Discussions involving data centers, energy infrastructure, and emerging technologies reflected competing priorities around innovation and regulation. Meanwhile, legislators continued wrestling with the difficult balance between Colorado's climate goals and growing concerns about energy reliability and consumer costs. With election-year politics layered on top of budget constraints, many of the most contentious debates were driven as much by values and ideology as by data or fiscal analysis. Bills tied to high-profile cultural or political issues often generated outsized media attention, lengthy floor debates, and pressure on legislators to stake out clear positions for their constituencies.

Against that backdrop, CALPHO adapted our advocacy approach to meet the realities of the session. Speed became increasingly important to adopt positions on late bills and to influence fast-moving negotiations. Preparation and advance relationship-building proved equally critical, as many complex policy discussions happened before bills were formally introduced and negotiating changes relied on a foundation of trust. CALPHO also continued emphasizing compromise and constructive engagement, demonstrating to legislators, state agencies, and coalition partners that local public health leaders can be pragmatic collaborators. That approach paid dividends in several high-profile discussions, including successful efforts to significantly reduce proposed LPHA General Fund cuts and to secure meaningful improvements to concerning legislation.

While the session once again underscored the challenges facing governmental public health, it also reinforced the growing visibility, credibility, and influence of local public health voices under the Gold Dome. In a year defined by limitations and difficult tradeoffs, CALPHO and LPHAs demonstrated our value as trusted partners capable of navigating both policy complexity and political reality.

CALPHO's Policy Committee

About the Policy Committee

The Policy Committee is one of CALPHO's standing committees. The group provides input and votes on policy issues that come before the Association for consideration, guided by CALPHO's policy priorities (see page 6) and working in partnership with the contract lobbying team and CALPHO staff.

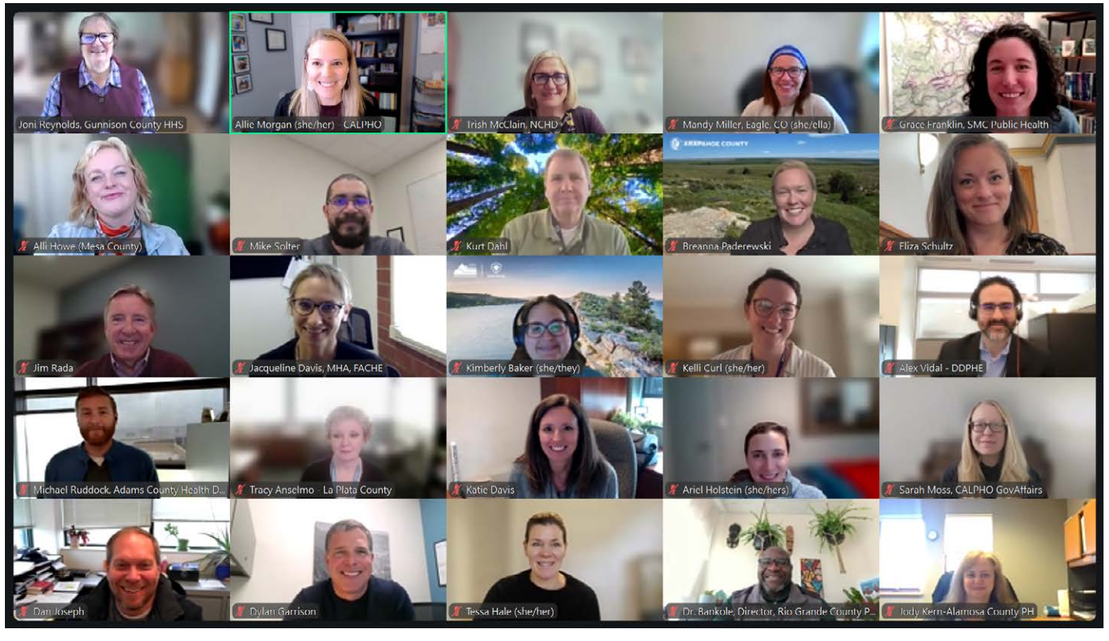
The Committee includes 11 voting members, selected by a nominating committee and voted on by CALPHO members. These individuals bring expertise from their agencies but are charged with representing the policy interests of LPHAs across the state. Voting members are chosen with consideration for diversity and inclusiveness to ensure the group represents varied membership priorities, including a balance between urban and rural/frontier perspectives, with at least five members representing each of these two types of counties. One member is a designated representative from, or liaison to, CALPHO's Board and another is a liaison to the Colorado Directors of Environmental Health (CDEH). Voting members are subject to term limits, with a one-year break required after an individual serves two consecutive years on the Committee.

Non-voting members are encouraged to join Policy Committee meetings, propose agenda items in line with established policy priorities, and provide commentary and recommendations on bill positions. CALPHO has a full-time Policy Director (Allie Morgan) to support the work of the Committee and other policy and advocacy activities impacting LPHAs, while other CALPHO staff, especially Peter Manetta, offer research and facilitation in service of our policy work.

For more on the Policy Committee, please refer to the 2026 Committee Handbook or Voting Member Charter, which are available upon request.

2026 Voting Members

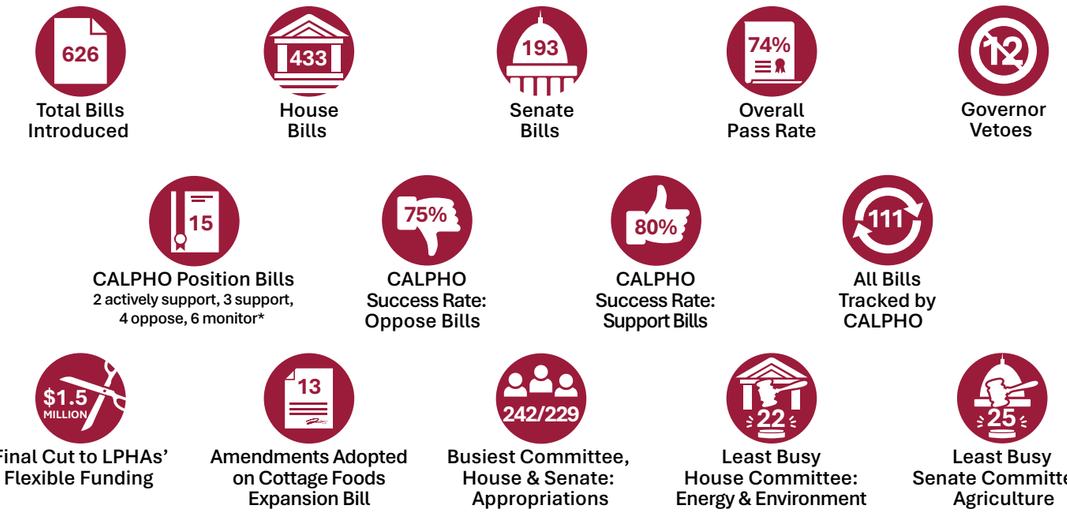
- **Kimberly Baker,** Health in All Policies Program Coordinator, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- **Kelli Curl,** Director of the Office of Policy and Public Affairs, Jefferson County Public Health
- **Jacqueline Davis,** Public Health Director, Delta County Public Health
- **Ariel Holstein,** Planning Analyst, Pitkin County Public Health
- **Allison Howe,** Chief Health Strategist, Mesa County Public Health
- **Trish McClain,** Public Health Director, Northeast Colorado Health Department
- **Mandy Miller,** Policy and Partnerships Manager, Eagle County Public Health and Environment
- **Jim Rada,** Environmental Health Services Division Director, Jefferson County Public Health **CDEH Liaison*
- **Joni Reynolds,** Assistant County Manager for Health and Human Services, Gunnison County **Committee Chair, Board Liaison*
- **Mike Solter,** Environmental Health Manager, Broomfield Public Health and Environment
- **Alex Vidal,** Legislative Liaison and Board Administrator, Denver Department of Public Health and Environment



Regularly Attending Non-Voting Members

- **Grace Franklin,** Public Health Director, San Miguel County Public Health **Ex-Officio Member, CALPHO Board President*
- **Cara Bradbury,** Executive Director, CALPHO **Ex-Officio Member*
- **Tracy Anselmo,** Director, La Plata County Public Health
- **Kolawole Bankole,** Director, Rio Grande County Public Health
- **Michelle Beyrle,** Acting Deputy Director, El Paso County Public Health
- **Steve Chevalier,** Environmental Health Manager, Arapahoe County Public Health
- **Kurt Dahl,** Environmental Health Manager, Pitkin County Public Health
- **Katie Davis,** Deputy Director, Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment
- **Dylan Garrison,** Environmental Health Manager, Arapahoe County Public Health
- **Tom Gonzales,** Public Health Director, Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- **Penny Grande,** Deputy Director, Arapahoe County Public Health
- **Tessa Hale,** Public Health Policy Lead, Boulder County Public Health
- **Heath Harmon,** Director, Eagle County Public Health and Environment
- **Meagan Hillman,** Director, Kiowa County Public Health and Prowers County Public Health and Environment
- **Dan Joseph,** Environmental Health Director, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- **Jody Kern,** Director, Alamosa County Public Health Department
- **Claire Lewandowski,** Environmental Health Manager, Eagle County Public Health and Environment
- **Shaun May,** Public Health Services Director, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment
- **Sara McIntosh,** Director, Elbert County Public Health
- **Breanna Paderewski,** Director of Finance and Administration, Arapahoe County Public Health
- **Taylor Roberts,** Community Health Promotion Manager, Arapahoe County Public Health
- **Michael Ruddock,** Public Health Policy and Public Affairs Senior Advisor, Adams County Health Department
- **J. Adrian Stanley,** Public Health Information Officer, El Paso County Public Health
- **Jason Vahling,** Public Health Director, Broomfield Public Health and Environment

Session Stats – January 14 to May 13, 2026



** 3 of these bills previously had "oppose" or "amend" positions that changed when our advocacy was successful*

CALPHO's Priority Areas

CALPHO's legislative priorities are informed by our members and set by our Board of Directors. They focus on creating the conditions in which LPHAs can be successful at improving and protecting community health and well-being, while also recognizing current political dynamics and budget realities in Colorado.

We identify three types of legislative priorities: Long-term (tier 1) priorities, which are focused on improving public health funding and infrastructure; annual (tier 2) priorities, which are issue-specific and ideally offer proactive opportunities to drive positive change; and reactive priorities, which acknowledge the need for CALPHO to play defense against harmful proposals.

A recurring annual priority is environmental health. Each year, the Policy Committee inevitably considers a number of environmental health bills, many of which have technical components or implementation complexities that local environmental health professionals are uniquely qualified to evaluate. We work closely with CDEH to identify and assess the most relevant bills in this category. Well before the 2026 session, CALPHO expected to dedicate substantial time and resources to advocacy focused on food safety issues, such as opposing efforts to broaden the allowable sale of cottage foods and raw milk. This led to the creation of a Food Safety Policy Workgroup that met regularly throughout the interim in 2025.

Environmental health is paired with two to three additional topics. In 2026, CALPHO's other annual priorities are:

- **Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation and Control.** This includes a focus on supporting smart immunization policy. For example, CALPHO supports continued engagement and collaboration with partner organizations — such as Immunize Colorado, Children's Hospital Colorado, and fellow members of the Colorado Chooses Vaccines Coalition — to promote increased immunization access and delivery.
- **Behavioral Health and Substance Use Prevention.** For example, CALPHO supports policies that increase access to primary prevention and early intervention services associated with behavioral health and substance use, including more resources for qualified behavioral health professionals in schools and youth activities.
- **Access to Care for Medicaid Beneficiaries.** For example, CALPHO supports policies that expand or protect benefits and reimbursement through Health First Colorado (the state's Medicaid program) for proven, cost-effective physical and behavioral health care services and public health programs. Given the many other groups actively involved on this important issue, CALPHO's intent was to engage in a support rather than a lead role in policy efforts focused on Medicaid access.

For more, please see our 2026 Legislative Priorities document.

The Budget and Local Public Health Funding

State budgets move through natural cycles of expansion and contraction, and Colorado is firmly in a down cycle. Unfortunately, most indicators suggest our fiscal challenges are not temporary. Rising costs across state government, particularly within Medicaid — which covers more than 1.2 million Coloradans — continue to consume a growing share of available resources. At the same time, the state is grappling with the expiration of major federal pandemic-era funding sources, the lingering effects of recent federal tax policy changes, and ongoing constitutional constraints imposed by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

> "We're in just one hell of a predicament."
> *– Rep. Rick Taggart (R-Grand Junction)*

Axios Denver summarized the situation by saying that "Colorado's massive budget hole isn't the result of bad math, but rather clashing fiscal rules, rising costs and decisions lawmakers made when money was flowing."

For organizations like CALPHO and LPHAs, this environment necessitates a largely defensive posture. When resources are scarce, lawmakers tend to focus on preserving high-cost, high-demand services such as Medicaid, behavioral health crisis response, and K-12 education. Public health programs — particularly prevention, health promotion, and community-based initiatives — can be vulnerable because their benefits are often realized over years rather than budget cycles, and their benefits can be seen as "nice to have" rather than crucial. The result is a persistent temptation to shift resources from upstream prevention to downstream services, even though prevention efforts frequently reduce costs in the long term.

The fiscal outlook worsened as the session progressed. Spring revenue forecasts projected a budget shortfall between $1 billion and $1.5 billion, forcing the JBC to make difficult decisions on an accelerated timeline.

Ultimately, the committee chose to budget using the more optimistic of two available forecasts, a decision that allowed lawmakers to avoid even deeper cuts but raised concerns among some analysts that additional mid-year reductions may be necessary.

Federal Funding Uncertainty

State budget pressures were compounded by continued uncertainty at the federal level. In February, news broke that federal agencies planned to terminate several large public health grants in Colorado, Minnesota, Illinois, and California. A U.S. District Court judge issued a temporary restraining order blocking the action, which was later extended, but the episode served as a reminder of the precarious funding environment facing public health nationwide.

CALPHO and our partners have monitored developments closely. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), CALPHO's national affiliate, is leading advocacy efforts to highlight the significant consequences of federal grant terminations and other shakeups. While the immediate threat was paused, the situation in February reinforced concerns that state and local agencies may increasingly be asked to absorb federal funding reductions at a time when state resources are stretched and county budgets are limited.

Protecting Local Public Health Funding

Against this backdrop, CALPHO spent much of the session working to protect funding for local public health. There were encouraging signs even before 2026 began. During the November budget hearing for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), legislators openly questioned proposals to shift budget-balancing responsibilities onto LPHAs. "Why are they cutting folks on the ground doing the work in the communities?" asked Rep. Kyle Brown during committee discussion. Rep. Emily Sirota noted that "if we're losing federal dollars for a lot of this work that happens both at the state level and the local level, this just feels extra painful."

The most direct threat was a proposed $3.3 million ongoing reduction to LPHA's General Fund support. Nearly all (90 percent) of the cut would be applied to Local Planning and Support dollars, one of the few sources of non-categorical funding available to LPHAs — making them an especially precious resource. The remainer would reduce funding for environmental health services.

> "If this seems bad, buckle up."
> *– Sen. Judy Amabile (D-Boulder)*

The initial JBC motion to approve that cut failed on a tie vote, forcing members to revisit the issue later. Following the first hearing, CALPHO Executive Director Cara Bradbury shared an encouraging update with members, saying, "While several members ultimately voted for the cut due to the state's broader budget constraints, every member voiced appreciation for the work of LPHAs and the importance of the services you provide… Your advocacy is making a difference."

As discussions continued, it was clear that legislators were struggling to reconcile their support for local public health with the magnitude of the state's budget deficit. When the proposal returned for consideration, the JBC engaged in an unusually public negotiation. At various points, Rep. Brown and Rep Sirota discussed cuts ranging from the original $3.3 million proposal to as little as $500,000, with Brown arguing for the smallest cut possible. Ultimately, the committee settled on a $1.5 million reduction. Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer and Rep. Rick Taggart, the JBC's two Republican members, voted against it because they believed the impact to LPHAs was still too severe.

While any reduction is disappointing, the final outcome represented a significant improvement over the original proposal. CALPHO's advocacy, combined with strong support from legislators on both sides of the aisle, helped reduce the proposed cut by $1.8 million. We were heartened to hear legislators repeatedly and publicly acknowledge the value of local public health services, even as they faced pressure to make extraordinarily difficult decisions.



House Budget Debate, 11:00 PM: Waiting on Bill Being Read Aloud

Other CDPHE Budget Cuts

The daunting fiscal environment affected numerous public health programs across CDPHE. Among the more notable decisions for LPHAs:

- Funding was continued for state laboratory positions that had previously relied on expiring federal COVID-19 funds, including $2.0 million in General Funds, but was denied for other asks related to the state lab.
- The Health Disparities and Community Grant Program was reduced by $2.5 million, a 53 percent cut. This program includes several LPHA grantees plus many community partners.
- Funding for the Test and Fix Water for Kids program was reduced by $1.1 million, though CDPHE will continue the effort through cash-fund sources.
- The Mobile Home Park Water Quality Program was reduced by $1.0 million.
- The Child Abuse Response and Evaluation (CARE) Network was reduced by $677,000.
- The Community Behavioral Health Disaster Program was eliminated as a funded program, though it remains in statute.
- Mental Health First Aid training funding was reduced by nearly half.

In addition, large cuts in the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to Medicaid eligibility and services — on top of an across-the-board rate cut for providers — will have cascading effects that increase service demands and coordination needs for LPHAs and other safety net partners. Smaller reductions in other parts of the budget, like the elimination of the full ($2.0 million) appropriation to the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) for cannabis research, represent more setbacks for public health work. And new unfunded mandates were created during the session, including through the expanded Colorado Cottage Foods Act, which does not provide any funding for LPHAs to account for the allowable sale of potentially hazardous cottage food products that will increase local outbreak investigation and response needs. CALPHO communicated these impacts to JBC members and other legislators to ensure they understood that LPHA funding impacts went far beyond the single $1.5 million General Fund cut.

The Long Bill and Budget Package

Legislative staff worked quickly to translate the JBC's March decisions into bills. The FY 2026-27 "Long Bill" was introduced as House Bill (HB) 1410, just one week later than originally planned. The final budget package included 65 bills, with HB 1348 through HB 1412 serving as the session's budget "orbital" bills. The package also incorporated assumptions tied to several additional measures introduced separately during the session.

The resulting budget totaled approximately $46.8 billion, including $17.4 billion in General Fund expenditures. While that represented a tiny increase of roughly $212 million over the prior year, the increase fell far short of covering growth in major cost drivers, particularly Medicaid. CDPHE's General Fund allocation decreased by 5.6 percent compared with the previous fiscal year.

House consideration of the budget package proved contentious. More than 70 amendments were filed, with debate stretching across two full days. Proceedings ground to a halt when a Republican invoked a rarely used procedural rule requiring the entire Long Bill to be read aloud, which took many hours. The delay pushed House budget work into the weekend and prevented consideration of some proposed amendments. The Senate, by contrast, moved through the budget package with considerably less drama, completing debate on the Long Bill and orbital bills in roughly five hours before advancing the package the following day. It was signed into law by the governor in early May.

Orbital Bills of Interest

Several budget orbitals carried direct implications for local public health. Especially of interest:

- **HB 1391 (Safe Drinking Water in Child Care Centers and Schools)**: CALPHO and partners from Arapahoe County Public Health worked with sponsors on amendments clarifying how compliance with lead testing and remediation would be determined for purposes of child care licensing. The changes addressed implementation concerns while preserving the bill's public health goals.
- **HB 1404 (Transfer Tobacco Education Program Funds)**: The bill authorized a one-time transfer from state tobacco funds to support universal preschool funding. The proposal surfaced during a JBC hearing late in the budget process and moved quickly through the legislature, leaving little opportunity for stakeholder engagement. CALPHO was concerned with the impact on tobacco prevention and chronic disease work, particularly for LPHAs that had anticipated increased revenues from Proposition EE distributions, which had long been communicated to them. Staff submitted a letter to the JBC outlining these concerns and met with representatives from the Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) and the Governor's Office to share additional context. While we were unable to stop the transfer, these conversations ensured policymakers better understood the downstream effects on LPHAs and chronic disease prevention efforts, which had been championed by Governor Jared Polis. CALPHO is positioned for future discussions should additional transfers or funding adjustments be proposed.

Throughout the budget process, CALPHO consistently communicated a central message: LPHAs are trying to accomplish an incredible amount of work in their communities with inadequate budgets, and funding reductions from state, local, and federal sources create a sense of "death by a thousand cuts." Our public health workers are dedicated, creative, and resourceful — but they can only do so much. In a year defined by fiscal scarcity, preserving some local public health capacity remained the Association's highest priority, and represented one of our most significant advocacy successes.

CALPHO's Policy Positions

The CALPHO Policy Committee voted to take formal positions on 15 bills in 2026 and reviewed nearly 100 others. An overview of our position bills is provided here. Given the protectionist nature of the session, the bills CALPHO opposed are listed first, followed by bills the Association supported, and finally by bills that we monitored. See Appendix A for definitions of CALPHO's policy position options and Appendix B for the full list of bills reviewed by the Policy Committee this session.

There is always more to follow than time and capacity allow, and members are encouraged to reach out with questions about other legislation that is important to their agencies or communities.

Bills Opposed by CALPHO

CALPHO opposed five bills this session. Notably, after months of negotiations with stakeholders, the Association modified its position on our highest priority bill, HB 1033, from Actively Oppose to Monitor. CALPHO members knew long before the session that food safety would be a resource-intensive topic, as it was clear that a bill focused on cottage foods would be introduced again and Governor Polis maintained an interest in expanding direct-to-consumer sales access for raw milk products. $150,000 was set



LPHA Committee Presentation on Raw Milk, March 2026

aside in the Governor's budget proposal to support the raw milk policy change, which had been discussed for several years, but the effort was later abandoned. In addition, CALPHO opposed legislation to reduce cigar taxes, expand access to high-potency THC beverages, amend the definition of social determinants of health in state statute, and allow individuals to be sued for federal constitutional violations in state court.

Senate Bill (SB) 86: Reduce Premium Cigar Excise Tax Rate

Sponsorship: Democrat
FY2027 Budget Impact: $54,000 to the Department of Revenue; the bill would also have decreased state tax revenue through Proposition EE by $1.5 million
Position: Oppose
Result: Bill Failed (died in committee in 1st chamber)
Summary: Three taxes are imposed on premium cigars in Colorado. These taxes currently total 56 percent of the manufacturer's list price. The bill would have eliminated the portion of the tax attributable to Proposition EE, thereby reducing the total tax rate to 40 percent of list price. The resulting $1.5 million decrease would have been slightly offset by an increase in cigar consumption, which analysts predicted would bring in about $250,000 for the state from remaining statutory and Amendment 35 taxes. CALPHO opposes efforts to increase access to and promote consumption of tobacco products.

SB 164: Regulation of Lawful Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) Beverages

Sponsorship: Democrat
FY2027 Budget Impact: $430,000 in General Funds to multiple state agencies, plus $50,000 from cash funds and other sources
Position: Oppose
Result: Bill Failed (died in committee in 1st chamber)
Summary: The bill would have created a framework for the manufacture, distribution, sale, and consumption of "lawful THC beverages," which are nonalcoholic beverages

Spotlight

HB 1033: Expanding the Colorado Cottage Foods Act

Sponsorship: Bipartisan
FY2027 Budget Impact: $119,000 to new Cottage Foods Cash Fund within CDPHE, funded through transfers from the Medication Administration Cash Fund and Assisted Living Residence Cash Fund
Position: Actively Oppose → Monitor
Result: Signed by Governor
Summary: The Colorado Cottage Foods Act (CCFA) allows producers to sell a limited range of nonhazardous foods produced in unlicensed home kitchens, such as pickled fruits and vegetables, spices, teas, and honey. HB 1033 expands the CCFA to allow for the production and sale of foods that require refrigeration, known in public health as time-and-temperature-control-for-safety (TCS) foods. These items inherently carry a greater risk of foodborne illness and require careful adherence to food safety guidelines to avoid making people sick.

LPHAs found arguments focused on social justice and expanded economic opportunity compelling, but worried that the introduced version of the bill substantially expanded the CCFA with few accompanying guardrails. While the vast majority of cottage food producers are conscientious and work hard to follow the rules, accidents happen, especially in variable kitchen conditions that typically lack adequate storage or restricted access for children, pets, and others. LPHAs have virtually no way to locate a cottage food producer when something goes wrong and must incur the costs of investigation and outbreak response, which can require significant staff time. Given the difficult budget environment and the fact that the bill allocated modest additional resources for CDPHE but none for LPHAs, we shared widespread concerns about the budgetary impacts for already cash-strapped local governments, on top of the greater health risks for communities. We detailed these concerns for proponents and various media outlets that covered the bill, from the *Washington Post* to *Colorado Public Radio*.



LPHA Committee Testimony on HB 1033, February 2026



LPHA Committee Testimony on HB 1033, February 2026

CALPHO worked closely with proponents to advocate for common-sense guardrails to protect consumers, especially those most vulnerable to severe illness who often can't make informed decisions about what they consume. While partners at the Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA) negotiated the reinstatement of a higher revenue cap for cottage food producers, which had been removed entirely in the bill, we worked to limit the number of TCS foods, mandate registration, and emphasize the importance of food safety training.


The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness
March 24, 2026
Colorado's Tamale Act may decide whether home cooks can build a business
An eclectic coalition, including the MAHA call for "food freedom," gave the law a second chance as backers push for immigrant assistance and entrepreneurship.

Through months of negotiation, a number of amendments were adopted at multiple steps in the legislative process. Among the most notable: a limit of five variations of a single TCS food item (e.g., five flavors of tamales) per producer; a requirement that any TCS food be prepackaged for sale; a $150,000 gross annual revenue cap; a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027; and required registration for all vendors. After key amendments were adopted, CALPHO adjusted our position to Monitor. We wished to see additional changes, but also wanted to recognize the meaningful compromises made by sponsors.

CALPHO now turns to work with key partners, including CDPHE environmental health specialists, food program managers, CSU Extension food safety trainers, and cottage food vendors themselves, to shape an effective implementation plan that balances greater flexibility with established food safety practices. We continue to field a bilingual survey developed in fall 2025 to better understand the barriers for and needs of vendors while developing a consistent set of goals and data collection criteria for LPHAs. We extend our thanks to the bill sponsors, LPHA staff who volunteered for a work group or testified in committee, staff from the Governor's Office, government affairs leads with CRA and CCI, and others who worked with us on this bill.

Bills Opposed by CALPHO – continued

infused with hemp-derived THC. Up to 10 milligrams per serving would have been allowed, with regulatory oversight split between CDPHE and the Department of Revenue. Any retailer with a liquor or marijuana license could apply for a permit to sell them. While local governments would have retained the authority to prohibit THCbeverage sales within their jurisdictions, CALPHO was opposed to increasing access to high-potency THC beverages (especially by selling them alongside alcoholic beverages) and creating a complicated regulatory framework that muddies enforcement.



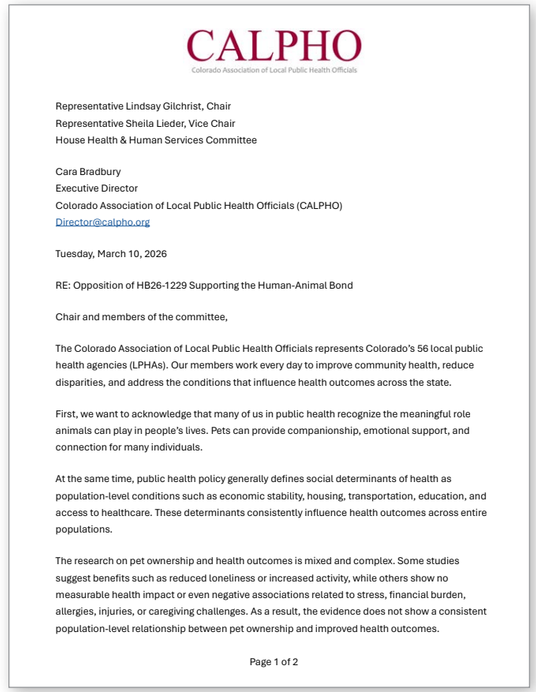
CALPHO Committee Testimony on SB 176, May 2026

SB 176: State Remedies for Constitutional Rights Violation

Sponsorship: Democrat
FY2027 Budget Impact: $1.1 million in General Funds to the Department of Law and the Department of Personnel and Administration
Position: Oppose
Result: Bill Failed (died in committee in 1st chamber)
Summary: Known as the "No Kings Act," SB 176 would have allowed a person to sue government employees in state court if, under any color of law, they had violated their constitutional rights. Along with partners in local government and health care, CALPHO was concerned about the possibility for lawsuits against public employees doing their best to make time-sensitive, evidence-based decisions to protect community health. The bill would have significantly increased the risk of good-faith decisions resulting in personal civil liability. Exposing nurses, medical directors, LPHA leaders, and others to lawsuits would increase local government costs and incentivize public officials to hesitate or avoid taking action. While the bill was intended to hold federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents accountable, questions about its scope were too many and the risk was too great.

HB 1229: Supporting the Human-Animal Bond

Sponsorship: Bipartisan
FY2027 Budget Impact: None
Position: Oppose
Result: Signed by Governor
Summary: The bill changes the state's official definition of social determinants of health — housed within the Health Disparities and Community Grant Program, which is administered by CDPHE — to include the "human-animal bond," or the mutually beneficial relationship between a person and a pet animal. As a result, HB 1229 allows CDPHE to award grants to organizations that promote the human-animal bond, though an amendment later clarified that doing so would depend on future funding allocations by the legislature specifically for this purpose. CALPHO acknowledged the meaningful health benefits, both emotional and physical, that pets bring to many people's lives, but worried about expanding the definition in state statute because pet ownership is not associated with universal health benefits in the same way as other social determinants, such as access to safe housing and nutritious food. Additionally, in a year when the accompanying grant program had its funding slashed by more than half, expanding the list of eligible organizations felt misguided.


CALPHO
Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

Representative Lindsay Gilchrist, Chair
Representative Sheila Lieder, Vice Chair
House Health & Human Services Committee

Cara Bradbury
Executive Director
Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO)
Director@calpho.org

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

RE: Opposition of HB26-1229 Supporting the Human-Animal Bond

Chair and members of the committee,

The Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials represents Colorado's 56 local public health agencies (LPHAs). Our members work every day to improve community health, reduce disparities, and address the conditions that influence health outcomes across the state.

First, we want to acknowledge that many of us in public health recognize the meaningful role animals can play in people's lives. Pets can provide companionship, emotional support, and connection for many individuals.

At the same time, public health policy generally defines social determinants of health as population-level conditions such as economic stability, housing, transportation, education, and access to healthcare. These determinants consistently influence health outcomes across entire populations.

The research on pet ownership and health outcomes is mixed and complex. Some studies suggest benefits such as reduced loneliness or increased activity, while others show no measurable health impact or even negative associations related to stress, financial burden, allergies, injuries, or caregiving challenges. As a result, the evidence does not show a consistent population-level relationship between pet ownership and improved health outcomes.

Page 1 of 2
CALPHO Written Testimony on HB 1229, March 2026

Bills Supported by CALPHO

CALPHO's Policy Committee took a support position on five bills designed to improve community health, strengthen service delivery, and fund public health priorities. Four of the five bills reached the governor's desk, though one (HB 1063) had its impact severely reduced through a late-session strike-below amendment. All of the successful bills shared an important attribute: they do not cost the state any money. The remaining bill, the latest attempt to increase fees on alcohol in Colorado, again proved too controversial for legislators.

Spotlight



CALPHO Participates in Pro-Vaccine Lobby Day, March 2026

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLORADO FAMILIES FOR VACCINES

SB 32: Promoting Immunization Access

Sponsorship: Democrat
FY2027 Budget Impact: None
Position: Actively Support
Result: Signed by Governor
Summary: The bill expands access to vaccines through many different changes. Among them: codifying pharmacists' ability to independently prescribe vaccines; authorizing state agencies to rely on guidance from national medical professional organizations in addition to the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), as its credibility has been compromised; revising liability protections related to vaccine administration and distribution for both children and adults; and updating immunization funding flexibility to guard against federal cuts. Specifically, if federal vaccine funding is curtailed for infant immunizations, CDPHE may request state funding through the annual budget process or through an emergency supplemental.

CALPHO joined with pro-vaccine partners, including Immunize Colorado and members of the Colorado Chooses Vaccines Coalition, to advocate for consistent access to vaccines for people of all ages across our state. The bill involved a drawn-out fight over the inclusion of manufacturer liability protections, which were eventually removed.

This policy success was profiled in various national media outlets, including *National Public Radio,* and legislative spotlights from groups such as the *National Conference of State Legislatures*. It positions Colorado as a leader in fighting for access to established vaccines that save lives, regardless of threats or uncertainty at the federal level. The lobbying team at Aponte and Busam Public Affairs shared with stakeholders: "This was a significant win [that] ensures Colorado has a clear, stable, and clinically grounded framework for adult immunization guidance and provides the benchmark needed to support provider confidence and access."

HB 1063: Treating People with Behavioral Health Disorder

Sponsorship: Bipartisan
FY2027 Budget Impact: None
Position: Actively Support
Result: Signed by Governor
Summary: HB 1063 came from a 2025 interim committee. Originally, the bill would have changed many requirements for providers of medicated-assisted treatment and secure transportation services. It was scaled back to focus only on changes related to secure transportation. Of greatest interest to CALPHO members was the fact that it would have transferred licensing authority for secure transportation service providers from counties to CDPHE starting in 2027, which is a change many LPHAs strongly support. However, due to budget constraints and pushback from the administration, HB 1063 was stripped to a bare-bones version through a strike-below amendment. In its final form, the bill simply requires HCPF and the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to publish lists of contracted secure transportation providers.

HB 1145: Mobile Home Park Water Quality

Sponsorship: Democrat
FY2027 Budget Impact: None
Position: Support
Result: Signed by Governor
Summary: The bill requires mobile home park owners to remediate welfare-related water quality violations in mobile home parks without passing the costs on to park residents. If park owners fail to comply with the new requirements, CDPHE may impose multiple penalties on them. HB 1145 expands on the 2023 Mobile Home Park Water Quality Act, which created a water quality testing program but lacked meaningful enforcement authority. The new bill requires park owners to correct issues with things like water smell and taste that impact quality of life and health for their residents.

HB 1271: Alcohol Impact & Recovery Enterprises

Sponsorship: Democrat
FY2027 Budget Impact: $125,000 in General Funds to the Department of Revenue, in addition to extensive cash fund impacts. New enterprise funds would have been appropriated to the BHA.
Position: Support
Result: Bill Failed (died in committee in 1st chamber)
Summary: The bill would have created three enterprises in the BHA to fund programs and services addressing the behavioral, physical, and mental health impacts of alcohol use. Starting in July 2027, new fees on alcohol manufacturers or wholesale distributors would have been $0.05 per gallon of beer, cider, and apple wine; $0.35 per liter of spirits; and $0.07 per liter of wine, with revenue deposited into the new Alcohol Impact and Recovery Enterprises Fee Collection Fund. CALPHO supported the attempt to increase fees on alcohol, which are extremely low in Colorado compared to most other states despite high levels of alcohol consumption, and to provide more resources for prevention and early intervention services, in addition to treatment and recovery. As the bill stated, "alcohol consumption can contribute to a range of public health and safety impacts, including substance use disorders, alcohol-related illness, impaired driving, and other harms that affect individuals, families, and communities." Industry lobbied heavily against the bill and some legislators raised concerns about broader structural budget problems in the state.

SB 60: Mental Health Training in Concussion Education

Sponsorship: Bipartisan
FY2027 Budget Impact: None
Position: Support
Result: Signed by Governor
Summary: Known as "Alyssa's Act," the bill requires youth athletic coaches to complete a biennial mental health education course, and mandates that parents be advised to seek an evaluation from a health care provider if a youth athlete is suspected of experiencing a concussion. Coaches are already required to complete a concussion recognition course, but SB 60 strengthens the understanding of mental health impacts from these injuries and expands required training to coaches in more settings, including private schools and club sports. CALPHO was supportive of these changes in the interest of promoting and protecting youth mental health.

Bills Monitored by CALPHO

In addition to the cottage food expansion bill detailed on page 10, CALPHO formally monitored five bills focused on mental health, child care licensing, alcohol sales, whistleblower rights, and the county human services system. Two of these bills started with an "Amend" position as the Association worked with sponsors on changes to protect existing public health regulations. While Policy Committee members discussed other bills at length, for varying reasons, they chose not to take a formal position. That included legislation focused on rodenticide use, alcohol entertainment districts, cannabis regulation, health investigations of detention facilities, and many other topics of interest to local public health. See Appendix B for a list of all bills tracked and reviewed by CALPHO, which includes 96 others that were informally monitored.

SB 8: Mental Health Access

Sponsorship: Democrat
FY2027 Budget Impact: $97,000 in General Funds for the BHA and $1.7 million in cash funds, though it would have brought in cash fund revenue as well
Position: Monitor
Result: Bill Failed (died in committee in 1st chamber)
Summary: The bill would have established an enterprise in the BHA to improve access to services through the Adult Mental Health Services Program, modeled on the state's successful I Matter program for youth. Mental health service providers could have been reimbursed for up to six in-person or telehealth sessions per eligible adult. It would have received funding via fees on internet service account holders, up to $0.25 per account per month. Revenue bonds and gifts, grants, and donations would have been needed to support program administration. SB 8 was championed by Sen. Dafna Michaelson Jenet, one of the legislature's most dedicated behavioral health advocates, before she resigned from her seat mid-session.

SB 20: Child Care Provider Licensing & Quality

Sponsorship: Bipartisan
FY2027 Budget Impact: No General Fund impact; on net, the bill results in a reduction of about $355,000 to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC)
Position: Amend → Monitor
Result: Signed by Governor
Summary: The bill requires CDEC to phase out the use of contract staff to perform inspections or investigation of licensed child care facilities, replacing them with licensing specialists employed by the department. CDEC must establish standard training for department or contract staff to ensure consistency. SB 20 includes a task force that must be funded by gifts, grants, or donations. CALPHO became involved when LPHA staff noticed that the bill would have impacted LPHA-conducted sanitation inspections, which are required as part of CDEC child care licensing, in addition to other inspections of these facilities. This was inadvertent on the part of the sponsors and the bill was amended to clarify.

SB 179: Public Health Employee Whistleblower Rights

Sponsorship: Democrat
FY2027 Budget Impact: $870,000 to the Department of Personnel and Administration
Position: Monitor
Result: Bill Failed (died in committee in 1st chamber)
Summary: The bill would have clarified that public health emergency whistleblower protections apply to the University of Colorado Hospital Authority and the Denver Health and Hospital Authority. The need for this clarification was not clear to CALPHO. In addition, the bill would have prevented any action arising under public health emergency whistleblower protections from being subject to the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act.

HB 1190: Alcohol Beverage Manufacturer Sales

Sponsorship: Bipartisan
FY2027 Budget Impact: About $170,000 in cash funds to the Department of Revenue
Position: Amend → Monitor
Result: Bill Failed (died in committee in 1st chamber)
Summary: The bill would have created an expanded alcohol sales room permit. Permit holders could have operated a restaurant in their sales room and sold alcohol that they manufactured as well as that was produced elsewhere. CALPHO's concern was with the bill's requirement that permit holders have "sandwiches and light snacks" available for consumption in expanded sales rooms, as it was unclear whether these facilities would be subject to existing retail food requirements and inspections. We engaged with sponsors to discuss local public health concerns and clarify their intent, and ultimately were satisfied that an amendment was not required. The bill failed in its first hearing at the request of the sponsors.

HB 1429: County Administration of Public Assistance Programs

Sponsorship: Bipartisan (JBC)
FY2027 Budget Impact: About $10 million in total, including $3 million in General Funds, for multiple state agencies
Position: Monitor
Result: Signed by Governor
Summary: The bill impacts Colorado's human services delivery system, which is similar in some ways to the public health system. It requires HCPF and the Departments of Human Services and Early Childhood to create a new public benefits delivery model and to create a centralized service to investigate fraud. Public benefits impacted are Medicaid, Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and adult financial programs. County commissioners and human services directors balked at the initial proposal from the state after they had not been adequately consulted, and over a period of months they successfully negotiated many changes to the bill.

Looking Ahead

Term limits mean that change is on the horizon. After eight years with Governor Polis in office, the state is preparing for a new administration in 2027. A new governor and cabinet members bring both uncertainty and opportunity. CALPHO is eager to establish the Association and LPHA leaders as trusted, indispensable partners in the work of protecting and improving the health of Coloradans.

The primaries are underway and the general election is November 3. CALPHO is working closely with major candidates for governor and attorney general from both parties. In the focus on high-profile statewide races and congressional contests, people can forget that most state legislative seats are also up for election. With more than a quarter of state legislators originally appointed by a vacancy committee, this election offers an important opportunity for voters to choose their representatives in the House and Senate.

And those legislators are likely to contend with another difficult budget year. Multiple pressures — from runaway Medicaid costs and TABOR constraints to the threat of recession and unpredictable federal actions — are still present. Several measures on the already crowded statewide ballot could have major impacts on finances too, including Initiative 175, which would divert hundreds of millions of dollars from the General Fund to pay for roads and bridges. CALPHO will consider ballot measures as they are certified.

The list of likely hot topics for the 2027 session is long, including:

- Budget shortfalls and Medicaid spending
- Artificial intelligence and data centers
- Housing affordability and land use
- Consumer rights and protections
- Criminal justice and public safety reform
- Insurance costs and sustainability
- Alcohol and marijuana regulation
- More opportunities to counter the federal administration

In the meantime, CALPHO staff will spend the interim meeting with legislators and partners, exploring future bill concepts, supporting LPHAs with site visits for elected officials and state staff, and determining policy priorities for the year ahead. It's a responsibility and a privilege to work on behalf of local public health. We are eager to build on recent successes.

For more information on CALPHO's policy and advocacy work or to discuss opportunities to coordinate on future efforts, please contact Allie Morgan, Policy Director, at allie@calpho.org.



APPENDICES

Appendix A – CALPHO's Legislative Position Options

CALPHO

Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

LEVELS OF SUPPORT FOR CALPHO LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

Actively Support: Dedicate all CALPHO staff, lobbying, and grassroots resources towards the bill's passage, with actions including:

- ✓ Reviewing the bill and all amendments in detail
- ✓ Developing fact sheets or position papers
- ✓ Arranging for testimony
- ✓ Working with sponsors, other legislators, and drafters on desired amendments, if applicable
- ✓ Coordinating with other groups who are in support
- ✓ Counting votes and lobbying for committee and floor passage
- ✓ Sending action alerts to members requesting legislator contacts

Support: Review the bill and all amendments. Agree to allow CALPHO's name to be used as a supporter of the bill. In rare cases, may include writing letters to legislators indicating our support or offering supportive testimony. No additional lobbying or staff resources to be utilized.

Monitor: Review the bill and report on its fate to CALPHO members at the end of the session. Monitor progress as the bill moves through the legislative process, including reviewing proposed and adopted amendments for possible impacts on public health.

No Position: Review the bill and determine that it is best for CALPHO to remain silent on the proposal and to not expend additional staff time or other resources formally tracking it.

Amend: Review the bill and all amendments and identify desired changes that would move CALPHO to a "monitor" or "support" position. Discuss with sponsors, other legislators, and drafters, coordinate with other groups, and propose or share support for amendments that align with our desired changes. Involves significant staff and lobbying resources.

Oppose: Review the bill and all amendments. Agree to allow CALPHO's name to be used in opposition to the bill. In rare cases, may include writing letters to legislators indicating our opposition or offering opposing testimony. No additional lobbying or staff resources to be utilized.

Actively Oppose: Dedicate all staff, lobbying, and grassroots resources towards the bill's defeat, with actions including:

- ✓ Reviewing the bill and all amendments in detail
- ✓ Developing fact sheets or position papers
- ✓ Arranging for testimony
- ✓ Working with sponsors and other legislators to advocate for a "no" vote
- ✓ Coordinating with other groups who are in opposition
- ✓ Counting votes and lobbying for committee and floor defeat
- ✓ Sending action alerts to members requesting legislator contacts
- ✓ If appropriate, working on amendments to bring the bill into the monitor or support categories

Appendix B – List of 2026 Legislation

Legislation with Formal CALPHO Position

CALPHO Position	Bill #	Bill Title	Final Status
Actively Support*	HB 26-1063	Treating People with Behavioral Health Disorder	Governor Signed
Actively Support	SB 26-032	Promoting Immunization Access	Governor Signed
Support	HB 26-1145	Mobile Home Park Water Quality	Governor Signed
Support	HB26-1271	Alcohol Impact & Recovery Enterprises	Bill Failed in Committee 8-5
Support	SB 26-60	Mental Health Training in Concussion Education	Governor Signed
Oppose	HB 26-1229	Supporting the Human-Animal Bond	Governor Signed
Oppose	SB 26-086	Reduce Premium Cigar Excise Tax Rate	Bill Failed in Committee 6-2
Oppose	SB 26-164	Regulation of Lawful Tetrahydrocannabinol Beverages	Bill Failed in Committee 9-0**
Oppose	SB 26-176	State Remedies for Constitutional Rights Violation	Bill Failed in Committee 4-3
Monitor*	HB 26-1033	Expanding the Colorado Cottage Foods Act	Governor Signed
Monitor*	HB 26-1190	Alcohol Beverage Manufacturer Sales	Bill Failed in Committee 13-0**
Monitor	HB 26-1429	County Administration of Public Assistance Programs	Governor Signed
Monitor	SB 26-008	Mental Health Access	Bill Failed in Committee 7-0**
Monitor*	SB 26-020	Child Care Provider Licensing & Quality	Governor Signed
Monitor	SB 26-179	Public Health Employee Whistleblower Rights	Bill Failed in Committee 5-0**

**These bills had a change in CALPHO position after the Association's original stance. Their final position is indicated here.*
See bill descriptions on pages 9-14 for more detail.
***These bills failed at the request of their sponsor(s) after no feasible path forward was identified in advance of their first committee hearing.*



Other Legislation Reviewed by CALPHO

Bill #	Bill Title	Final Status
HB 26-1002	Provider Participation in Health Insurance	Governor Signed
HB 26-1019	Kidney Screening Mandatory Preventive Coverage	Governor Signed
HB 26-1030	Data Center & Utility Modernization	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1036	Local Taxes on Vacant Residential Property	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1037	Ban Government Purchase of Personal Data from Third Party	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1044*	Measures to Improve Black Maternal Health Equity	Governor Signed
HB 26-1055	My Colorado Card Pilot Program	Bill Failed – No Appropriations Vote
HB 26-1067	Diseased Livestock Indemnity Fund	Governor Signed
HB 26-1069	Availability of Emergency Medical Services	Governor Signed
HB 26-1070	Third-Party Network Agreements for Dental Services	Governor Signed
HB 26-1092	Licensed Midwife Public Health Facility Privileges	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1096	Colorado Medicaid Access to Primary Care Services	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1107	Health Care in Regulated Facilities	Governor Signed
HB 26-1111	Pesticide Product Disposal & Container Recycling	Governor Signed
HB 26-1116	Process for People with Behavioral Health Disorder	Governor Signed
HB 26-1129	Gas Utility Service	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1130	Public Restroom Baby Diaper Changing Station	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1147	Host Home for People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities	Governor Signed
HB 26-1148	Protections for Youth on Social Media	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1165*	CDPHE Budget Supplemental - FY26	Governor Signed
HB 26-1177	End Nursing Provider Wage Enhancement Payments	Governor Signed
HB 26-1178*	Expenditures in Excess of Appropriations	Governor Signed
HB 26-1207	Disclosure of Demographic Workforce Data	Governor Signed
HB 26-1208	Sunset Compliance Advisory Panel Air Pollution	Governor Signed
HB 26-1214	Sunset Substance Abuse Treatment Program Licensing	Governor Signed
HB 26-1221	Tax Expenditure Adjustments	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1222	Modify Tax Expenditures	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1223	Modifying Certain Tax Expenditures	Governor Signed
HB 26-1235	Updates to Medicaid	Governor Signed
HB 26-1238	Designating Emergency Medical Services Essential Services	Governor Signed
HB 26-1239*	County Enforcement Authority	Governor Signed
HB 26-1243	CDPHE Regulation of Abortion Clinics	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1244	CDPHE Nursing Home Penalty Fund	Governor Signed
HB 26-1257	Local Regulation of Massage Facilities	Governor Signed

Other Legislation Reviewed by CALPHO – continued

Bill #	Bill Title	Final Status
HB 26-1262	Patient Access to Compounded Medical Items	Governor Signed
HB 26-1274	State Agency Payments to Grant Recipients	Governor Signed
HB 26-1276*	Protect Safety of Individuals Who Are Immigrants	Governor Signed
HB 26-1282	Eliminate Duplicative Regulation of School Child Care Centers	Governor Signed
HB 26-1289	Modification of Certain Tax Expenditures	Governor Signed
HB 26-1300	Health Service District Affordable Housing Service	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1301	Hospital Funding	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1318	Traffic Safety Near Schools	Governor Signed
HB 26-1323	Wildfire Resiliency Prohibiting Taking of Beavers	Bill Failed in Committee
HB 26-1325	Natural Medicine	Governor Signed
HB 26-1328	Medicaid Nonemergency Medical Transportation	Governor Signed
HB 26-1330*	Alcohol Beverages Entertainment Districts	Bill Failed – Lost on House Floor
HB 26-1331	Modify 2026 Interim Committees	Governor Signed
HB 26-1335	Abortion Medication Access on College Campuses	Governor Signed
HB 26-1336	Increase Access to Pharmacy Services	Governor Signed
HB 26-1349	Funding for Prevention Services Programs in CDEC	Governor Signed
HB 26-1351	Healthy School Meals for All State Education Fund	Governor Signed
HB 26-1378	Repeal Behavioral Health Resources	Governor Signed
HB 26-1389	Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education Grant Appropriation	Governor Signed
HB 26-1390	Health Disparities & Community Grant Evaluation	Governor Signed
HB 26-1391*	Safe Drinking Water in Child Care Centers & Schools	Governor Signed
HB 26-1404*	Transfer Tobacco Education Fund to Preschool Program Fund	Governor Signed
HB 26-1409	Marijuana Tax Cash Fund Distributions	Governor Signed
HB 26-1410*	2026-27 Long Appropriations Bill	Governor Signed
HB 26-1411	Changes to Cover All Coloradans Program	Governor Signed
HB 26-1418	Online Add-on Transaction Fee Youth Service Enterprise	Governor Veto
HB 26-1425	Applied Behavior Analysis Services	Governor Signed
HB 26-1430	Transportation Funding Adjustments	Governor Signed
SB 26-003	End-of-Life Management of Electric Vehicle Batteries	Governor Signed
SB 26-004	Expand List of Petitioners for Protection Order	Governor Signed
SB 26-006	Parity for Non-Opioid Pain Management Drugs	Governor Signed
SB 26-007	Medical Marijuana Use in Health Facilities	Governor Signed
SB 26-016	Prohibit Discharge Preproduction Plastic Materials	Governor Signed
SB 26-019	Early Childhood Local System Consolidation	Governor Signed

Other Legislation Reviewed by CALPHO – continued

Bill #	Bill Title	Final Status
SB 26-026	Weight for Vehicles with Child Restraint System	Governor Signed
SB 26-033	Clean Energy Permitting Processes	Bill Failed in Committee
SB 26-041	Consumer Protections Medical Care Entities	Bill Failed in Committee
SB 26-062*	Rodenticide Use Restrictions	Bill Failed in Committee
SB 26-063	Nonemergency Medical Transportation Services	Bill Failed – Lost on Senate Floor
SB 26-065	Systemic Insecticide Use Limitations	Bill Failed in Committee
SB 26-077	Epilepsy-Related Mortality Awareness	Governor Signed
SB 26-097	Decriminalize Adult Commercial Sexual Activity	Bill Failed in Committee
SB 26-098*	State & Local Noise Abatement Authority	Bill Failed in Committee
SB 26-099	Governor Temporary Classify Controlled Substance Analog	Bill Failed in Committee
SB 26-101	Local Government Landfill Methane Emission Reduction Regulations	Governor Signed
SB 26-109	Building Code Accessibility	Governor Signed
SB 26-114	Spirituous Liquor Manufacturer Sales Rooms & Other Alcohol	Governor Signed
SB 26-116	Property Tax Modifications	Governor Signed
SB 26-123	Prohibit Ventilation Shutdown for Poultry	Bill Failed in Committee
SB 26-127	Family Medical Leave Insurance Duration Extensions	Bill Failed in Committee
SB 26-131*	Sports Betting Protection	Governor Signed
SB 26-132	Voluntary Alcohol Breath Test	Governor Signed
SB 26-135	State Public K-12 Education Funding	Became Law - No Sig. Needed
SB 26-138	Reducing Administrative Burdens on Health Care	Governor Signed
SB 26-140	Exempt Drugs from Prescription Drug Affordability Board Reviews	Bill Failed in Committee
SB 26-146	Restrict Single-Use Food Serviceware Distribution	Governor Veto
SB 26-149	Pathways for Individuals with Mental Health Disorder	Governor Signed
SB 26-161*	Modernize Regulation of Cannabis-Related Products	Bill Failed in Committee
SB 26-171	Disposal of Preproduction Plastic Materials	Governor Signed
SB 26-178	Health Insurance Affordability Measures	Governor Signed
SB 26-187*	Establishing Commission on Medicaid	Governor Signed
SB 26-189	Automated Decision-Making Technology	Governor Signed

**These bills were the subject of additional discussion and consideration from CALPHO despite the fact that they did not have a formal position.*

Appendix C – Legislator Recognition and Policy Alignment

2026 Legislator Awards

CALPHO's Policy Committee and Board of Directors chose two recipients of our 2026 Legislator Award: **Representative Kyle Brown** and **Representative Karen McCormick.**

These awards were made in recognition of their steadfast support of local public health interests throughout the session.

Representative Brown, who sits on the JBC, advocated to minimize General Fund cuts to LPHAs and led negotiations to decrease the proposed cut by 55 percent. He also sponsored important legislation to protect immunization access and fought for changes to the cottage food expansion bill in the name of food safety. Despite his busy schedule, he made time to speak to public health professionals at the 2026 advocacy day hosted by CSPH and the Colorado Public Health Association.

Representative McCormick, who chairs the House Agriculture, Water, and Natural Resources Committee, pushed back on efforts to decrease food safety regulations and supported LPHAs in their concerns with the cottage food bill. In addition, she provided a platform for local public health experts to present the Committee on the dangers and ongoing questions surrounding raw milk, and she always considered local public health perspectives when voting on legislation.

We are grateful to both legislators for their leadership and partnership! An award ceremony will take place this summer.



Representative Kyle Brown



Representative Brown Speaking at Public Health Advocacy Day



Representative Karen McCormick



Representative McCormick Chairing Cottage Foods Hearing

2026 Legislator Scorecard

CALPHO staff develop an annual Legislator Scorecard to track where legislators' votes did and did not align with the Association's formal bill positions. Floor votes (third reading) are included for all 100 House and Senate members, where applicable. Committee votes are included for legislation that did not reach the floor.

The scorecard is available online to CALPHO members.
Access it by clicking here.



CALPHO

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