

## SENATE BILLS:

### **SB08-011 Trauma Care Funding**

#### **(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Morse (D)

Rep. Massey (R)

Establishes the emergency responders and trauma care reimbursement program in the department of public health and environment (department) to reimburse emergency and trauma care providers for uncompensated care provided to patients injured in a motor vehicle accident. Allows reimbursements for uncompensated trauma care to licensed ambulances, licensed air ambulances, trauma physicians, and trauma centers that satisfy specified criteria, and prioritizes reimbursement payments first to the ambulances, second to the trauma physicians, third to level III, IV, and V trauma centers located in rural areas, and fourth to all other trauma centers. Requires the executive director of the department to identify an entity to administer the program (program administrator). Outlines the duties of the program administrator, including: Starting the program by July 1, 2009; reimbursing providers for uncompensated trauma care in a timely and efficient manner; Managing the administrative costs of the program; Seeking payment from other responsible parties to reimburse the emergency responders and trauma care reimbursement fund (program fund); Establishing criteria and qualifications that an applicant must meet to obtain reimbursement from the program fund, including a requirement that the applicant attempt to collect payment for trauma care from the trauma patient or other responsible party; Determining the types and amount of costs of uncompensated care for which reimbursement will be allowed and the maximum dollar amount of allowable reimbursement. Establishes the program fund in the state treasury, consisting of moneys credited to the program fund from a \$16 fee on motor vehicle registrations and moneys recovered from responsible parties for the payment of trauma care that was reimbursed by the program fund. Caps the amount of moneys in the program fund that may be used to administer the program and requires the remainder of the program fund to be used to reimburse trauma care providers for uncompensated trauma care. Requires the program administrator to submit an annual report to the health and human services committees of the senate and house of representatives and details the information to be included in the report. Mandates all automobile insurance policies issued, delivered, or renewed in the state to contain emergency medical care coverage with benefits of at least \$15,000. Increases the fee for registering a motor vehicle, other than a fleet vehicle, by \$16 and directs that the moneys from the increased fee be transferred to the program fund.

**Status:** 5/06/2008 Senate Consideration of First Conference Committee Report result was to Adopt Committee Report - Repass

### **SB08-022 Children's Basic Health Overexpenditure**

#### **(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Sandoval (D)

Rep. Ferrandio (D)

Upon approval of the governor, authorizes expenditures of the department of health care policy and financing ("department") for the children's basic health plan to exceed the amount appropriated if there are sufficient moneys available in reversions from the department, the health care expansion fund, or the children's basic health plan trust.

**Status:** 04/14/2008 Governor Action - Signed

### **SB08-043 School Nutrition Healthy Students**

#### **(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Romer (D)

Requires each school district board of education to adopt minimum nutritional standards for foods and drinks sold a la carte or in vending machines or school stores ("nutritional standards") on school campuses. Adds compliance with the nutritional standards requirements as an indicator for accreditation of school districts. Creates the healthy school foods and drinks grant program ("program") in the department of education ("department"). Establishes a process by which school districts may apply for grant moneys from the program. Establishes eligibility criteria for grants of moneys from the program. Establishes grant amounts based on school district enrollment sizes. Creates the healthy school foods and drinks grant program fund ("fund"). Transfers moneys to the fund from the lottery proceeds contingency reserve fund. Requires the department to prepare and submit to the education and health and human services committees of the house of representatives and senate a report that describes the activities carried out under the program. Requires the state board of education to promulgate rules for the implementation of the program. Establishes a repeal date for the program.

**Status:** 01/23/2008 Senate Committee on Education Postpone Indefinitely



The Children's Hospital  
2008 Bills of Interest  
Updated 5.7.08

**SB08-057 Insurance Coverage Hearing Aids Minors**

**(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Kester (D)

Rep. Marshall (D)

Finds that providing hearing aids to hearing-impaired children will improve the language development of such children. Declares that providing hearing aids to such children will reduce the costs borne by the state in connection with providing special education and other costs associated with such hearing loss. Requires insurance providers to cover hearing aids for minor children when medically appropriate. Requires the coverage to include a new hearing aid not more frequently than every 5 years, a new hearing aid when alterations to the existing hearing aid cannot meet the needs of the child, and services and supplies such as the initial assessment, fitting, adjustments, and auditory training. Requires that coverage be provided with the same annual deductible or copayment established for all other covered benefits within the insured's policy.

**Status:** 4/29/2008 Senate Considered House Amendments - Result was to Concur - Repass

**SB08-129 School Nutrition Beverages Policy**

**(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Gibbs (D)

Requires each school district board of education ("district board") and the state charter school institute ("institute") to adopt and implement a policy that prohibits the sale of beverages to students from any source. Creates exceptions to the policy for the sale of beverages that satisfy minimum nutritional requirements and beverages that are sold during specified school events. Includes in the policy maximum portion sizes for beverages sold at elementary, middle, and high schools. Requires each district board and the institute to adopt policies concerning the provision of healthful food choices in schools.

**Status:** 4/25/2008 Governor Action - Signed

**SB08-160 Children's Health Care**

**(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Hagedorn (D)

Rep. McGihon (D)

For the baby and kid care program under Medicaid: Increases the percentage level of the federal poverty line for eligibility for persons at least 6 and under 19 years of age to 133%, effective July 1, 2009; Provides for 12-month enrollment following eligibility, except for defined circumstances, and ensures continuous enrollment if eligible for the children's basic health plan. For the children's basic health plan, increases the percentage level of the federal poverty line for eligibility from 205% to 225%, effective July 1, 2008, and, subject to

available appropriations, authorizes the department of health care policy and financing ("department") to increase the level for eligibility to up to 250%. Directs the department to allow and actively seek organizations that do not provide direct medical services to presumptively determine eligibility for Medicaid and the children's basic health plan.

**Status:** 4/25/2008 House Third Reading Passed

**SB08-161 Medicaid And CHP+ Enrollment**

**(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Boyd (D)

Rep. Merrifield (D)

Subject to the receipt of sufficient gifts, grants, or donations to cover the costs, provides that the department of health care policy and financing ("department") shall adopt rules to: Allow the department to verify income eligibility under Medicaid and the children's basic health plan through the records of the division of employment and training in the department of labor and employment ("division"); Allow applicants to submit income information more current than the records of the division; and, Reenroll recipients of Medicaid and the children's basic health plan if the records of the division establish the recipient's income eligibility. Directs the advisory committee on covering all children in Colorado to investigate the feasibility of combining Medicaid and the children's basic health plan.

**Status:** 4/29/2008 Senate Considered House Amendments - Result was to Concur - Repass

**SB08-163 Autism Commission**

**(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Shaffer (D)

Rep. Primavera (D)

Creates an autism commission to study autism spectrum disorders, identify existing services and gaps in services for people with autism spectrum disorders, and identify best practices in providing services. Directs the autism commission to develop a 10-year strategic plan for Colorado that: Clarifies the array of services and supports needed for persons with autism spectrum disorders; Provides effectively coordinated services and supports to persons with autism spectrum disorders in this state; and, Estimates the funding and sources of funding needed to provide necessary and coordinated services to persons with autism spectrum disorders. Specifies the duties of the commission. Specifies the membership of the autism commission. Directs the autism commission to report to the governor and the general assembly with a final report in the fall of 2009. Allows the department of human services to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from private or public sources to fund the commission's work. **Status:** 4/14/2008 Governor Action - Signed





The Children's Hospital  
2008 Bills of Interest  
Updated 5.7.08

**SB08-173 *Healthy Schools Wellness Program***

**(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Williams (D)

Rep. Todd (D)

Creates the healthy schools grant program ("program") in the department of education ("department") to promote the health of students in schools. Requires the department to administer the program. Requires the department to develop a standard application form for a school district to use in applying on behalf of a school for a grant from the program. Requires the commissioner of education ("commissioner") or his or her designee to review each application submitted by a school district and to announce which schools shall receive grants and the amount of grant moneys that each recipient school shall receive. Requires a school to satisfy minimum standards concerning nutrition, physical education, and physical activity to be eligible to receive a grant from the program. Creates the healthy schools grant program fund ("fund") in the state treasury. Allows the department to use a percentage of the moneys appropriated to the fund to offset the direct and indirect costs of implementing the program. Requires the department to report to the education and the health and human services committees of the house of representatives and the senate concerning the activities carried out under the program and the effectiveness of the program. Requires a school district that includes a school that receives grant moneys from the program to report to the department concerning the school's use of the grant moneys. Requires the state board of education ("state board") to promulgate rules establishing policies and procedures for the administration of the program. Requires the state board to promulgate rules establishing criteria and procedures for the commissioner or his or her designee to use in selecting schools to receive grants from the program and in determining the amount of grant moneys that each recipient school shall receive.

**Status:** 04/09/2008 Senate Committee on Appropriations Postpone Indefinitely

**HOUSE BILLS:**

**HB08-1009 *Emergency Medical Care Coverage Auto Insurance***

**(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Morse (D)

Rep. Massey (R)

Requires an automobile insurance policy issued, delivered, or renewed on or after January 1, 2009, to contain emergency medical care coverage of at least \$15,000 to cover the costs of all medically necessary and accident-related emergency medical care services provided to a person injured in a motor vehicle accident. Establishes a presumption that the minimum amount of emergency medical care coverage required by law is included in an automobile insurance policy if the insurer fails to include any emergency medical care coverage in the policy. Preserves the right of the insurer to offer, and the insured to purchase, emergency medical care coverage in excess of the minimum coverage required by law. Specifies the providers to whom the emergency medical care coverage benefits are to be paid for providing emergency medical care services to an injured person. Specifies the reimbursement rate for providers based on a percentage of the 2006 Medicare resource-based relative value scale (RBRVS) fee schedule. Requires an insurer to honor a proper assignment of emergency medical care benefits by the insured to a health care provider and to promptly pay emergency medical care claims.

**Status:** 04/21/2008 House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor Committee Vote - Final Action Failed

**HB08-1391 *Pilot program to provide mental health services to abused or neglected children***

**(Support (Level 2))**

Rep. Romanoff (D)

Sen. Keller (D)

Creates the child welfare and mental health services pilot program ("program") in the department of human services ("department"). Requires the department to develop and establish the program and to promulgate rules for the program. Outlines the criteria for receiving services through the program. Lists the services that shall be available through the program, including mental health screenings, evaluations, and treatment for children who are the subject of a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect, and their siblings. Requires the department to evaluate the program based on established criteria and to submit a report to the general assembly concerning the outcomes of the program.

**Status:** 5/06/2008 House Considered Senate Amendments - Result was to Concur - Repass

*To guide its advocacy work, The Children's Hospital looks to its board-level Advocacy Committee, which provides leadership and direction in identifying and prioritizing advocacy efforts.*

**SUPPORT-1:** A priority bill for The Children's Hospital, usually introduced by and/or sponsored by TCH. TCH dedicates substantial resources to advocating for the legislation's passage and sends regular action alerts/updates to the Advocacy Network. TCH lobbies for the bill and often works with the media to highlight the issue. TCH arranges testimony in legislative committee hearings, often providing its own physicians, nurses or other employees as experts.

**SUPPORT-2:** Because of its potential to positively impact kids' health, hospitals or health care in general, TCH allows the bill sponsors to list TCH as a supporter. TCH tracks the bill's status and may alert the Advocacy Network before critical votes. TCH may lobby for the bill or arrange expert testimony in committee hearings as appropriate.

**MONITOR:** Because of its potential impact on kids, kids' health, hospitals or health care in general, TCH monitors the bill's status but does not take an official position.

**OPPOSE-1:** Because of its potential to negatively impact kids' health, hospitals or health care in general, TCH makes opposition to the bill a priority issue, bringing to bear significant resources including lobbying efforts, work with the media, and grassroots action. TCH arranges testimony in legislative committee hearings, often providing its own physicians, nurses or other employees as experts.

**OPPOSE-2:** Because of its potential to negatively impact kids' health, hospitals or health care in general, TCH officially opposes the legislation. TCH tracks the bill's status and may alert the Advocacy Network before critical votes. TCH may lobby for the bill or arrange expert testimony in committee hearings as appropriate.