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To: Scott Downes

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December 2007

CCLP's Policy Matters

Colorado Center on Law and Policy/Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

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EITC Pledge Cards

- [Show your support for restoring the state Earned Income Tax Credit.](#)
- [Please fax completed cards to Adela at 303-573-4947 by Friday, January 25th.](#)
- [Or mail cards to CCLP at 727 E. 16th Ave., Denver, CO 80203.](#)

Legislative Kickoff: CCLP and COFPI Ready to Roll

Focus will center on health care, fiscal policy, self-sufficiency issues

As the 2008 legislative session kicks off this month, the Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP) and the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute (COFPI) are focusing on a variety of bills and issues that impact health care, state tax and budget policy, and self-sufficiency for lower-income families

"Colorado faces serious challenges when it comes to health care, self-sufficiency, and fiscal policy," said Maureen Farrell, Executive Director of CCLP, "but the state legislature has a unique opportunity this year to make smart choices so that we can surmount those challenges and build a better state for our families and communities."

CCLP and COFPI will focus its advocacy efforts on specific legislation concerning the Earned Income Tax Credit, health care reform, the single sales factor, the Rainy Day Fund, constitutional fiscal reform, and self-sufficiency for lower-income Coloradans.

[Click here for a more detailed look at CCLP and COFPI legislative priorities.](#)

Health Care Commission

- **The Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform will present its final report to the Legislature on January 31st.**

Join our mailing list!

CBMS Case Settles

CCLP, plaintiffs' lawyers reach settlement on benefits case

In December 2007, CCLP and plaintiffs' lawyers reached agreement in principle with lawyers for the State of Colorado to settle the September 2004 lawsuit involving the state's Computer Benefits Management System (CBMS). That proposed settlement is waiting for approval.

The settlement agreement calls for the Colorado Department of Human Services and Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to provide retroactive benefits to any person who can show they did not receive correct benefits during the pendency of the suit; to issue detailed monthly reports to plaintiffs' counsel by county and program of processing times; to copy plaintiffs' counsel on all reports to the federal government relating to Food Stamps, Medicaid, Child Health Plan plus and other programs; to continue the emergency hotline; and to forego any overpayment claims where the claimed overpayment is due to CBMS errors. All individual plaintiffs in the case have been made whole again for lost benefits they suffered.

For the full background on the CBMS case, [click here.](#)

Exempla Hospital Sale Update

Exempla board files suit to stop sale

CCLP and a coalition of health care advocates and community organizations are opposing the proposed sale of two-Denver area Exempla hospitals to a Catholic health care group. The sale would significantly divert charitable assets away from health care in the community and severely limit access to critical medical procedures in Jefferson and Boulder Counties, specifically related to reproductive and end-of-life issues.

In late December, Attorney General John Suthers announced that he would allow the sale to go through, despite strident objections from CCLP and key stakeholders. See article [here](#).

However, following the lawsuit filed by CCLP and a coalition of community groups in Boulder District Court, the Exempla board filed suit to stop the sale in Denver District Court, citing that the deal was "unacceptable and wrong." See article [here](#).

Listen to Ed Kahn's interview with KGNU about the Exempla hospital sale.

Budget Works 2008

Event draws more than 150 advocates and experts

On January 4th, COFPI hosted more than 150 advocates, experts, and government officials at the Colorado History Museum for Budget Works 2008.

The agenda included presentations on the Looking Forward project by representatives of COFPI, the Bell Policy Center, and the Colorado Children's Campaign, as well as a Referendum C update by Mike Mauer from the Colorado Legislative Council.

Denver media guru, Michelle Dally, hosted a unique discussion about public views on taxes and fiscal policy with Rick Reiter of Reiter & Associates and Bill Becker of the Economic Development Council of Colorado.

Alexis Senger, from the Office of State Planning and Budgeting, talked about building a budget with all of Colorado's fiscal restrictions.

Lastly, CCLP Board President and former Colorado Supreme Court Justice, Jean Dubofsky gave a breakthrough presentation concluding that the 6 percent limit is not, in fact, a limit.

Presentations, background materials, and more information are available [here](#).

Promotions

Staff Announcements

Congratulations Ed! On January 11th, the Colorado Bar Association announced that Ed Kahn was the 2008 recipient of the Merit Award, CBA's highest honor. The award was in recognition of Kahn's lifetime of outstanding legal and community service.

[Click here to read more about the award.](#)

Grant Announcements

In December, the Piton Foundation awarded CCLP a \$20,000 grant for the Self-Sufficiency Outreach and Education Project. Also, the Aloha Foundation recently awarded a \$3,000 grant to COFPI.

The entire CCLP team is deeply appreciative and thanks of these tremendous organizations for their continued support!

2008 Budget Primer

Wondering what really goes into the state budget? Curious about how the budget process actually works? Questions about what the state's spending priorities really are? Then check out COFPI's 2008 Budget Primer

2008 Budget Primer

Economic Self-Sufficiency Tables

The new 2008 Colorado Economic Self Sufficiency Standard Tables are now available on the Colorado Department of Local Affairs website. Click [here](#) to find out what it takes for your family to make ends meet in Colorado.

The Colorado Self-Sufficiency Standard measures how much income is needed for a family of a given composition in a given place to adequately meet their basic yet needs-without public or private assistance. The Colorado standard measures this for 70 different family types in each of Colorado's 64 counties. Full report coming in March 2008.

For more information about the tables and the Colorado Self-Sufficiency Standard, please contact Tracey Stewart at 303-573-5669 ext. 314 or tstewart@cclponline.org.

Self-Sufficiency Tables

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